

Wabash Plain Dealer

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WEEKEND EDITION January 18-19, 2020



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Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabash-plaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Swayzee Lions Club plans euchre event

The Swayzee Lions Club has planned a euchre event for Saturday, Jan. 18 at Swayzee United Methodist Church, 306 S. Washington St., Swayzee. The entry fee is \$12.50. Registration will last from noon to 12:45 p.m. Play begins at 1 p.m. There will be cash prizes for Most Loners, Highest Score, Second Highest Score, 50-50 Drawing and two entry fee drawings. Soft drinks, hot dogs, chips, popcorn and candy will be available for a donation. All proceeds support the Lions Club Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Joe Hamilton at 765-922-7280 or Terry Shaw at 765-667-4848.

BMV announces Martin Luther King Jr. holiday hours

All Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV) branches will be closed Saturday, Jan. 18 through Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. All branches will resume regularly scheduled business hours on Tuesday, Jan. 21. For a complete list of branch locations and hours, to complete an online transaction, or to find a 24-hour BMV Connect kiosk near you visit IN.gov/BMV.

Honeywell Singers Show Choir officially launches

Registration for Honeywell Singers is open through Monday, Jan. 27. A Meet the Director Reception will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 in the Nixon Room at the Honeywell Center. For more information, email Teresa Galley at tgale@honeywellfoundation.org or call 260-274-1412.

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Flu activity prompts visitor restrictions at Parkview Wabash

Hospital advises anyone not allergic to the flu vaccine should be vaccinated

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Public health officials are recommending temporary visitation restrictions for area hospitals, healthcare facilities and nursing homes in response to recent increased flu activity.

In response to a Plain Dealer request, Leslie A.

Megison, communications and media relations specialist, stated Thursday that "Parkview Health is implementing these restrictions at each of its facilities, including Parkview Wabash Hospital."

Flu activity

The Centers for Disease

Control (CDC) estimates that so far this season there have been at least 9.7 million flu illnesses, 87,000 hospitalizations and 4,800 deaths from flu.

According to the Indiana State Health Department's (ISHD) latest Weekly Influenza Report published Friday, Jan. 10, there have been a total of 22 influenza-related deaths in Indiana this flu season.

Eight of these were in pa-

tients aged 25 to 49, five were in patients aged 50 to 64 and nine were in patients aged 65 and older.

The only county to have more than five influenza-related deaths this season was Marion County with eight.

In response to a previous Plain Dealer request, Megan Wade-Taxter, ISDH media relations coordinator, stated she couldn't say how many of the state's total deaths came from Wabash County.

She stated that due to privacy laws, they could not release the county where deaths have occurred unless that county has five deaths or more.

Wabash County is in District 3, where 1.81 percent of all patients admitted to emergency departments and urgent care said an influenza-like illness was their chief complaint. This was

See **FLU** / Page A6

YMCA looks to 'Delay the Disease'



PHOTOS PROVIDED

WORKOUTS: Amanda Jones, of Wabash, recently completed certification that included specialized training regarding the impactful workouts that help fight Parkinson's disease.

Partnership with Community Foundation seeks to help Parkinson's patients

STAFF REPORT

Individuals who are fighting Parkinson's Disease will find increased healing and encouragement in Wabash County thanks to a partnership between the Wabash County YMCA and the Community Foundation of Wabash County, according to a press release.

OhioHealth's Delay the Disease program launched at the YMCA in January to provide resources and support to those fighting the debilitating effects of Parkinson's Disease. The Community Foundation of Wabash County provided grant funding to launch



CLASS: The class will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday and are available to anyone battling Parkinson's.

OhioHealth's Delay the Disease program at the Wabash County YMCA.

OhioHealth's Delay the Disease is an evidence-based fitness program designed to

optimize physical function and help delay the progression of symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease.

"We chose this program for the holistic aspects. De-

lay the Disease is a program that works on fine motor skills, speech, and involves caregivers as part of the care

See **YMCA** / Page A2

Wabash Co. Museum to host PBS screening: 'Polar Extremes'

Crystal Gayle Theater showing set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash County Museum and PBS39 are planning to bring the last program from "NOVA" to the Crystal Gayle Theater, according to a press release.

A free preview screening of the upcoming "NOVA" special, "Polar Extremes" is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Wabash County Museum, 36 E. Market St.

"Travel with renowned

paleontologist Kirk Johnson on an epic adventure through time at the polar extremes of our planet," stated the release. "Following a trail of strange fossils found in all the wrong places – beech trees in Antarctica, hippo-like mammals in the Arctic – Johnson uncovers the bizarre history of the poles, from miles-high ice sheets to warm polar forests teeming with life. What caused such dramatic changes at the ends of the Earth? And what controls the dial on Earth's thermostat?"

"Today, the Arctic is warming faster than

See **NOVA** / Page A3

Ind. celebrates 100 years of women's right to vote

Crouch, legislators, guests commemorate state's ratification of the 19th Amendment

STAFF REPORT

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, legislators, special guests and partner organizations Thursday kicked off the 100th anniversary of the Jan. 16, 1920, Indiana ratification of the 19th Amendment the women's constitutional right to vote at the Indiana statehouse, according to a press release.

Joining Crouch were members of the Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the local organizations that were involved in the



PHOTO PROVIDED

HISTORY: Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, legislators, special guests and partner organizations Thursday kicked off the 100th anniversary of the Jan. 16, 1920, Indiana ratification of the 19th Amendment the women's constitutional right to vote at the Indiana statehouse.

collaboration: the Indiana Historical Society; the Indiana Historical Bureau; the Indiana Humanities;

and the Indianapolis Propylaeum. The Commission

See **ANNIVERSARY** / Page A3

MIAMI (AP) — An Indiana man charged with negligent homicide in his young granddaughter's fatal fall from a cruise ship's open window in Puerto Rico leaned out of that window for several seconds before he lifted the child up to it and she fell, the cruise operator alleges in a court filing.

Royal Caribbean Cruises' Jan. 8 filing in U.S. District Court in Miami comes in response to a lawsuit the parents of Chloe Wiegand filed in December, accusing the operator of negligence in her death by allowing an 11th floor window in the ship's children's play area to be open.

Royal Caribbean, which is seeking the lawsuit's dismissal, lays the blame for the child's fatal fall on her 51-year-old grandfather, Salvatore Anello. He was charged last year in Puerto Rico with negligent homicide in her July 8 death.

In its filing, the company says that Anello, of Valparaiso, Indiana, was "reckless and irresponsible" in his granddaughter's fall from the open window on Royal Caribbean's

Freedom of the Seas ship. It says surveillance video on the ship shows Anello leaning out of the open window for about eight seconds just moments before he lifted his granddaughter, who would have turned 2 in December, up to the window, from which she fell to the dock far below. "This is a case about an adult man, who, as surveillance footage unquestionably confirms: (1) walked up to a window he was aware was open; (2) leaned his upper body out the window for several seconds; (3) reached down and picked up Chloe; and (4) then held her by and out of the open window for thirty four seconds before he lost his grip and dropped Chloe out of the window," the court filing states. "His actions, which no reasonable person could have foreseen, were reckless and irresponsible and the sole reason why Chloe is no longer with her parents," the cruise line said.

Michael Winkleman, an attorney for the girl's family, said that Royal Caribbean's

motion is “baseless and deceptive,” The Indianapolis Star reported.

Anello has insisted that he did not know the window was open when he lifted Chloe to the window, saying he did so to allow her to bang on the glass like she did at her brother’s hockey games. He told “CBS This Morning” in November that he was trying to stand Chloe on the window’s railing when she plunged from the open window. He also said he’s colorblind and that may be why he didn’t realize the tinted window was open.

“I just never saw it. I’ve been told that that’s a reason it might have happened,” he said, referring to the eyesight condition.

Anello’s attorney, José G. Pérez Ortiz, told The Indianapolis Star in November that surveillance video of the incident is consistent with the grandfather’s assertion that he believed the window was closed.

“My client thought that the window was closed,” Ortiz said. “Nothing in the video is inconsistent.”

Continued from A1

process instead of just focusing on gross motor skills," stated Dean Gogolewski, CEO of the Wabash County YMCA.

Amanda Jones, of Wabash, recently completed certification that included specialized training regarding the impactful workouts that help fight Parkinson's disease.

The class will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday and are available to anyone battling Parkinson's.


Class fees are \$30 per month for YMCA Members and \$40 per month for non-members and each session is limited to 12 participants.

"This will be a life-changing class for those fighting this debilitating disease,"

stated the release.

This program launch was made possible through a Good Deeds Grant through the Community Foundation of Wabash County.

which allowed the YMCA to purchase the certification through Ohio Health, train instructors, and purchase the special equipment necessary for this new program.



Roxy 5 Showtimes for Friday, January 17- Thursday, January 23
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.


<p><u>Bad Boys for Life (R)</u> Fri: 6:50, 9:40 Sat: 1:10, 3:55, 6:50, 9:40 Sun: 1:10, 3:55, 6:50 Mon- Thurs: 6:50</p>	<p><u>Like a Boss (R)</u> Fri: 7:10, 9:15 Sat: 1:50, 4:35, 7:10, 9:15 Sun: 1:50, 4:35, 7:10 Mon- Thurs: 7:10</p>	<p><u>Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13)</u> Fri: 6:30, 9:20 Sat: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20 Sun: 1:00, 3:45, 6:30 Mon- Thurs: 6:30</p>
<p><u>Dolittle (PG)</u> Fri: 7:00, 9:30 Sat: 1:40, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30 Sun: 1:40, 4:25, 7:00 Mon- Thurs: 7:00</p>	<p><u>Underwater (PG13)</u> Fri: 6:40, 8:55 Sat: 1:20, 4:05, 6:40, 8:55 Sun: 1:20, 4:05, 6:40 Mon- Thurs: 6:40</p>	

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Teenage sons obsessed with video games

DEAR HARRIETTE: I have two sons who love to play video games more than just about anything. They are middle schoolers, but they rarely want to go out and socialize. They do connect online with other kids who plays these games. I suppose I should be happy that they aren't out roaming the streets, but it is weird to me that they are so absorbed in their games. It doesn't seem healthy.

How can I get them to come up for air? – Video Game Overdose

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



DEAR VIDEO GAME OVERDOSE: You can limit the time that your sons are allowed to use their electronics and schedule other activities that will occupy them. It is important to have other things for them to do so that they don't feel like they are being punished when they are not allowed to play their games.

Find out what else excites them. Start with school subjects. Does anything pique their interest that may get them to want to go out and explore? What museums might be of interest to them? Sporting activities?

If you can't think of anything that is attractive to them, include them in things that you enjoy. The point is that you should replace their game time with interactive face-to-face engagements.

DEAR HARRIETTE: There have been a couple of racist and anti-Semitic incidents at my son's school recently, and it is disturbing to the whole student body, the faculty and the parents. But I don't see much being done about it. At my son's old school, the leadership hosted discussions with the students and parents that were led

READERS' CHOICE REPORTS

THURSDAY'S LOTTERIES

Cash 5
01-09-20-26-28
Cash4Life
01-09-25-38-57, Cash Ball: 2
Daily Three-Midday
1-1-3, SB: 1
Daily Three-Evening
0-4-0, SB: 6
Daily Four-Midday
6-5-6-4, SB: 1
Daily Four-Evening
7-0-2-4, SB: 6
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$103
million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$321
million

FRIDAY'S METALS

Aluminum.....	0.81
Copper.....	2.86
Lead.....	0.92
Zinc.....	1.11
Gold.....	1,558.37
Silver.....	18.03
Platinum.....	1,022.89

AREA GRAIN

Estimated grain prices Friday at Indianapolis-area elevators: Corn: \$4.03. Soybeans: \$9.09.

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by experts. At this school, there have been forums for the students to talk to the leadership, but they were unproductive and led to more division.

I want to recommend that the principal hire one of those diversity and inclusion experts to help the school deal with some pretty serious issues. How can I do that and be heard? There are so many accusations flying right now that I don't think anybody is actually listening. — Voice of Authority

DEAR VOICE OF AUTHORITY: Do your research and identify organizations or individuals who are known as experts in the field. Make a list of several choices that offer specific services at different rates. Figure out who your allies

are at the school. In a best-case scenario, you would have allies on all sides — with the administration, the students and the parents. Form a small group, and ask them to work with you to help present your findings and recommendations to leadership.

Request a meeting with the school principal. Outline your concerns and your reasons for why professional help may be advisable. If you meet with the principal and your small coalition of supporters, you will have a chance to get them to consider your idea.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.



Wabash Plain Dealer

99 W. Canal St.
Wabash, Ind. 46992

VOL. 162 NO. 13

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Circulation

■ **Customer Service**
Telephone Hours:
260-563-2131
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

■ **Office Hours:**
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. - noon; 1 - 5 p.m.

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■ **Home delivery subscription rates:** Daily, 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.
Other payment options available by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

■ There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

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Friday-Sunday:
Hours vary
Call: 260-563-2131
E-mail: news@wabashplaindealer.com

(Please call in advance of your visit.)

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer established September 1858

Published Tuesdays through Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

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'Sanctity of Life' event planned for January 26

STAFF REPORT

Cheryl Meyer, executive director of LIFE Center, and Jeni Friedersdorf, client service manager, will be “sharing on the Sanctity of Life” at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at Victory Christian Fellowship, 112 W. Main St., ac-

cording to a press release. “We believe that human beings are created by God in His image,” stated the release. “Therefore every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth – including

pre-born children, elderly individuals, those with special needs and others marginalized by society. Christians, then, are called to defend, protect, and value all human life. In short, human life is sacred and respect for human life should be at the

center of all we do.” Meyer started at LIFE Center as a volunteer and then became the director. Friedersdorf started as the executive director of LIFE Center. For more information, call 260-982-8357.

Indiana agency denies emergency request over beach erosion

OGDEN DUNES (AP) — An Indiana state agency declined to declare an emergency at Lake Michigan beaches eroded by high water levels and a series of storms, saying there isn’t enough damage to public resources to warrant the use of federal disaster funds. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security concluded this week that the damage to the shoreline in Porter and LaPorte counties isn’t severe enough for the state to request financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“To date, we are unaware of any loss of infrastructure (i.e. roads, bridges, public utilities, etc.) which would qualify for public assistance funding from federal or state disaster relief programs,” IDHS Executive Director Stephen Cox wrote in a Wednesday letter to lawmakers who asked for the state’s assistance. Cox responded to calls from Democratic state Sen. Karen Tallian and Rep. Pat Boy, who had asked Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb to declare a disaster in those counties, saying the state’s response has been woefully inadequate. IDHS, and other state and federal agencies, have been monitoring the beach erosion, Cox said. He pointed to similar shoreline erosion problems in Michigan that the state hasn’t deemed a disaster or sought FEMA funds for, The Times of Northwest Indiana reported. But Tallian pushed back,

arguing that although the lake hasn’t damaged “public” infrastructure, such as the Portage lakefront pavilion, there’s an urgent need for state resources to prevent that from happening. The senator, who is from Ogden Dunes, noted that support beams for porches at lake-adjacent homes in Long Beach have collapsed. Lake water has also made its way past barriers and exposed septic fields in the town, possibly resulting in sewage seeping into the lake. She also pointed to the “big pile of money” the town of Beverly Shores spent on preventing Lake Front Drive from getting washed out. “Surely we don’t have to wait until the road is in the lake before we can ask for

assistance,” Tallian said. There are ongoing local efforts to address erosion. Officials in Porter County, Portage, Ogden Dunes and Beverly Shores have declared local beach erosion emergencies. On Thursday, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission created a committee to demand a more helpful response from state and federal authorities. The commission will underscore the threats of the rising lake levels in addition to the broader regional and national implications. This week in Illinois, high lake levels and a string of storms have forced Chicago officials to close two beaches in Rogers Park, which is on the city’s North Side.

Toyota finishes \$1.3 billion update of Ind. factory

PRINCETON (AP) — Toyota has completed a \$1.3 billion project modernizing an Indiana factory to boost vehicle production and adding 550 jobs, the company announced Friday. The project at the Princeton assembly plant in southwestern Indiana included retooling, new equipment installation and adding advanced manufacturing technology so it could increase production

of the Highlander SUV. Toyota said the project grew by \$700 million and 150 new jobs from what it first announced for the factory in early 2017. Production recently began on the new 2020 Highlander at the factory, which now has about 7,000 employees and also builds Sequoia SUVs and Sienna minivans, according to the company. The plant that opened in 1998 can now build more than

420,000 vehicles a year, up from the 400,000 vehicles it built in 2016 before the modernization project began. Toyota executives celebrated the project’s completion with a ceremony attended by Gov. Eric Holcomb at the factory about 25 miles north of Evansville. Some production changes are planned, with Sequoia work being shifted to Toyota’s San Antonio plant

in 2022 and the Princeton factory continuing to build mid-size SUVs and minivans. The company also announced it would spend \$1 million on a new program to expose area high school students to advanced manufacturing career options. Toyota Indiana plant President Leah Curry said the program would give students a potential jump start on job opportunities in the region.

‘It’s all history now’

Recent stories about the acquisition by the city of Wabash of the Plain Dealer building at Canal and Cass streets have referred to the structure as “the old Plain Dealer building” because the newspaper offices have been moved to the second floor of 99 W. Canal St. That’s a bit confusing, for to many folks here the “old Plain Dealer building” is the one at the northwest corner of Wabash and Canal streets.

Pete Jones



and, just beyond, the entrance to the very crowded newsroom. A half-dozen desks jammed tightly together provided workspace for reporters and editors. Just off the main newsroom were the one-person sports department and the proofreader’s desk. In those days, long before the advent of spellcheck and similar computer applications, even small newspapers had proofreaders who read copy for errors.

The newspaper’s composing room, or back shop, took the rest of the space on the top floor. Because the paper then was produced in hot type, four or five Linotype machines stood on the south side of the composing room. In one corner there was a large gas-fired pot used for melting lead type slugs that had already been used.

Elsewhere in the room were stacks of lead ingots and a dozen or more heavy iron tables on wheels. These were used to move page forms about the room. A Ludlow machine, a printer’s saw and galley cases made the composing room even more crowded.

Finally, in the basement sat an expensive Goss printing press which the newspaper purchased in about 1959 or so. It sat in a shallow pit, and it went into action at about 2 o’clock in the afternoon in the days when the Plain Dealer was an evening newspaper.

Carriers, most of whom were schoolboys, delivered the newspaper to customers who lived within the city. As soon as school was over each afternoon, the carriers crowded into a small room adjacent to the press room to pick up their bundles of papers. Subscribers in the rural areas of the county received their papers in the next day’s mail.

Over the years, beginning in 1859, the Plain Dealer has occupied 10 locations in downtown Wabash. Most of these were storefronts up and down Market and Canal streets.

Pete Jones writes a weekly column on local history for the Wabash Plain Dealer. He writes about people, places and events in and around Wabash County. Contact him by mail at 1160 Sunset Drive, Wabash, IN 46992 or by email at peteinwabash@comcast.net.

ANNIVERSARY

Continued from A1

was formed by House Enrolled Act No. 1394 in July 2019, and encourages local communities and organizations across Indiana’s 92 counties to commemorate the centennial anniversary of women’s right to vote in their way as well.

“Today is such an important day, honoring the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote,” stated Crouch. “Women have such a powerful collective voice and its especially important in this election year that we honor that right with a wonderful day of festivities, history and many guests to share it with. Im honored to recognize the roles and impact women have made and continue to make in our state and our nation.”

The day started with a breakfast for legislators and other Statehouse guests, where the Indiana Suffrage History poster was unveiled. There was also a dedication of a plaque that will honor the Suffragists’ original Statehouse office. The Girl Scouts of Central Indiana offered a special pledge and the Capital City Chorus provided a special performance. The Indiana Historical Society’s traveling exhibit was also on display and will remain in the Statehouse Rotunda through Feb. 3.

Historian Dr. Anita Morgan provided an overview titled, “The Five Things to Know About Indiana Women’s Suffrage History.” Morgan shared extraordinary triumphs and struggles of Indiana women black and white, rich and poor, urban and rural



PHOTOS PROVIDED

DEDICATION: There was also a dedication of a plaque that will honor the Suffragists’ original Statehouse office.

who together sought equal rights with men at the ballot box.

The celebration concluded with guests traveling to the House Gallery for the introduction of a special Resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of the state’s ratification of the 19th Amendment. This special Resolution took place in the morning at the beginning of the House session and then again in the afternoon in the Senate.

“The Indiana Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission was established to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 2020. To increase visibility and awareness of the 100th anniversary, the Commission launched a website, in partnership with Indiana Humanities. It contains resources, re-



SENATE: This special Resolution took place in the morning at the beginning of the House session and then again in the afternoon in the Senate.

cent news and upcoming events scheduled throughout the year,” stated the release. “The Commission encourages events and activities throughout 2020. If there is an event or activity to celebrate Hoosier women winning the right to vote that your

community or organization would like included on the websites Master Events Calendar, please email Contact@IndianaSuffrage100.org. The Commission looks forward to celebrating this important anniversary in the months to come.”

SKYWARN

Continued from A1

and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service,” stated the NWS. “Although Skywarn spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the focus is reporting on severe local thunderstorms.”

In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

“Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by Skywarn spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods,” stated the NWS. “Skywarn storm spotters form the nation’s first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that your efforts have given your family and neighbors the precious gift of time – minutes that can help save lives. NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the Skywarn program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel,

dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches and nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are encouraged to become a spotter.”

The training will cover:

- Basics of thunderstorm development.
- Fundamentals of storm structure.
- Identifying potential severe weather features.
- Information to report.
- How to report information.

■ Basic severe weather safety.

Completion of MetEd Online Spotter Training is recommended by visiting https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23.

“This course covers the basics of being a Skywarn spotter. The goal of the course is to provide baseline training for all spotters through multiple modules covering the procedures for spotting (including communication and spotter report criteria) and safety considerations for all hazards,” stated MetEd. “Be aware that many NWS offices require training in addition to this online course.”

For more information, visit <http://www.weather.gov/skywarn/>.

NOVA

Continued from A1

anywhere else in the world, and Antarctica has locked in its ice enough water to raise sea level by a terrifying 200 feet. The way that the poles respond to a warming climate is one of the greatest wild-

cards in predicting our climate future. Johnson uses Earth’s history, written in stone, as a cipher to decode what is going on at our polar extremes today, and what the future may hold.”

For more information, visit www.wabashmuseum.org and click on Events, or call 260-563-9070.



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Laura M. France Floyd

Funeral Services for Laura M. France Floyd, 79, of rural Wabash, were 10:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 17, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Pastor Curt Alexander officiated the funeral service.

Mary F. Carpenter

Funeral services for Mary F. Carpenter, 90, of Wabash, were held on Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 at McDonald Funeral Home, 231 Falls Ave., Wabash, Indiana 46992. Pastor David Phillips was the officiant and Phyllis Price was the pianist.

Memories were shared by family and friends. Pallbearers Dennis McHarry, Greg Kelly, Ron France, Tim Conley, Craig Wagoner and Jamie France. Burial was in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash.

Burial followed at Falls Cemetery in Wabash. Pallbearers were Craig Pankop, Travis Carpenter, Scott France, Brandon France, Chris Perkins and Jim Perkins. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com

PENDING SERVICES

Donald Baer: 89, of rural Wabash, died at 5:47 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.
Norman Donaldson: 90, of Wabash, died at 7:46 a.m., Friday, Jan. 17, 2020 at his home. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.
Brandy Hernandez: 35, of Wabash, Indiana died at 7:47

p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. She is survived by her husband Julian. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.
Billy Joe Price: 41, of Wabash, Indiana, died Thursday, Jan. 16, 2019. He is survived by his two children, Tyler and Emma Killion of Peru, and his finacé, Christy Kramer. Services are pending at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Remains found in woods

BEDFORD (AP) — Human skeletal remains found last fall in a wooded area of southern Indiana have been identified as those of a man who vanished in August, police said. The Bedford Police Department announced Thursday that the remains are those of Brian S. Blomquist, 49, who was a resident of the Orange County town of Orleans. A man walking his dog found the remains on Oct. 25 in a wooded area in the

city of Bedford. Blomquist was reported missing to police on Aug. 13, a week after he was last seen in Bedford. A team from the University of Indianapolis Human Identification Center examined the remains and then sent material to Indiana State Police for development of a DNA profile. A match was found after the profile was entered into the Combined DNA Index System, The (Bedford) Times-Mail reported.

Jury selected for Weinstein's rape trial

BY TOM HAYS and
MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A jury of seven men and five women was selected Friday for Harvey Weinstein's rape trial after an arduous two-week process, setting the stage for testimony to begin in the next week.

The final tally mostly erased a gender imbalance that, just hours earlier, led to complaints by prosecutors that the defense was deliberately trying to keep young women off the panel.

"They are systematically eliminating a class of people from this jury," prosecutor Joan Illuzzi-Orbon said.

The defense said it wasn't specifically targeting young women, but didn't want jurors who were too young to understand the way men and women interacted in the early 1990s.

"That was a different time in New York and on planet Earth," Weinstein attorney Arthur Aidala said.

Weinstein, 67, ambling out of the courthouse, didn't comment when asked his thoughts on jury selection. "Ask Donna!" he said, referring to lawyer Donna Rotunno. Three alternate jurors — one man and two women — were also seated who will sit through the trial and take the place of any jurors on the main panel who can't make it through to deliberations.

Weinstein, the former studio boss behind such Oscar winners as "Pulp Fiction" and "Shakespeare in Love,"

is charged with raping a woman in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulting another woman in 2006. He has pleaded not guilty and said any sexual activity was consensual. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

The tussle over juror gender comes amid a selection process that has been far from easy.

Weinstein's case has attracted widespread public attention and catalyzed the MeToo movement as dozens of women have come forward over the last two years with allegations of sexual misconduct. That's made it tough for Weinstein's lawyers, prosecutors and Burke to find a fair and impartial jury.

Each day for nearly a week, whenever Judge James Burke introduced Weinstein to a new batch of potential jurors and asked if they couldn't be impartial, dozens of hands shot up.

Weinstein's lawyers have tried, so far unsuccessfully, to move the trial out New York City, arguing that the media hub where celebrities and ordinary people often intersect can't possibly give Weinstein a fair trial.

Cognizant of the media attention and the weight some people are putting on the case, Burke has cautioned potential jurors: "This trial is not a referendum on the #MeToo movement."

Of more than 600 people summoned as potential jurors in Weinstein's case, some have marked them-

selves for disqualification by admitting they knew one of Weinstein's many accusers, had personal experience with sexual abuse or read "Catch and Kill," a book by Ronan Farrow, one of the first reporters to bring the allegations against Weinstein to light.

There were others like supermodel Gigi Hadid, who reported for jury duty and wound up in the Weinstein pool, who even said they had met the defendant. One man's wife starred on a show that Weinstein's studio produced and said he couldn't be impartial. One woman said she couldn't be impartial because she has a "close friend who had an encounter with the defendant in his hotel room."

Another man was scratched for saying he couldn't be fair-minded because he had often spotted Weinstein in Tribeca, the lower Manhattan neighborhood that hosts an annual film festival. "On several occasions I've seen him on the phone screaming at someone," he said of Weinstein.

In the end, the jury includes the author of a upcoming novel that she describes as involving young women dealing with predatory older men. The defense, out of challenges, argued against including her on the jury, but Burke said she could serve. The defense then asked for a mistrial over her inclusion on the jury but was denied. Weinstein lawyer Rotunno

said the woman had lied on her jury questionnaire, but prosecutors noted she disclosed on the form that she was a novelist.

That so many people in the running to be on the jury have had experiences involving Weinstein or his accusers speaks to the breadth of his alleged abuse, as well as the ubiquitous nature of celebrity in New York, where stars are frequently spotted by paparazzi and the public alike riding the subway, shopping for groceries and walking their pets.

Then there have been other issues, including at least one instance of what jury consultants call "stealth jurors" — people eager to serve, especially on a high-profile case, because they hope to make a point, or a profit.

On Thursday, Burke threatened to hold a potential juror in contempt of court for asking his followers on Twitter "how a person might hypothetically leverage serving on the jury of a high-profile case to promote their new novel."

Opening statements are expected next Wednesday. The trial could last about six weeks.

While Weinstein's celebrity was behind some of the difficulties in finding an impartial jury in this case, they also stemmed from the fact that the MeToo movement has Americans thinking more than ever about their own experiences with sexual harassment and assault.

WB PULSE

Continued from A1

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 21

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Paradise Spring to hold annual meeting, soup supper

Paradise Spring will hold its annual meeting and soup supper carry-in at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the multi-purpose room of the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St. The meal is free but reservations are appreciated and should be made by Monday, Jan. 20. For more information, call 260-571-2879.

Red Cross plans blood donation opportunity for Jan. 22

The Red Cross has planned a blood donation opportunity from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

Experience the 'Silence of a Winter's Night'

Enjoy the "Silence of a Winter's Night" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited. Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127.

tion is required by calling 260-468-2127.

Pastor to be honored for 15 years of service

Pastor Robert Rensberger began his service as pastor of the Wabash First Church of God, 525 N. Miami St. on Jan. 1, 2005 and the congregation will honor his 15 years of service during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 26, with Pastor David Phillips as the guest speaker.

Manchester University plans Spring Convocation

The Spring Convocation is at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, the first day of classes, in Cordier Auditorium on the North Manchester campus. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Wabash Tri Kappa to sponsor 14th Annual Winter Gala

The gala will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, at Heartland REMC, 250 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased by Tuesday, Jan. 28. Tickets may be purchased from Tri Kappa Members or at the following locations: Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St.; Friermood Tire & Alignment, 1699 Stitt St.; and the dental office of Dr. Bing M. Fowler DDS, 1911 S. Wabash St. For more information, call Beth Miller at 260-563-1128.

United Methodist Church plans community dinner

The United Methodist Church will be hosting a community dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 at 306 E. Second St. The menu includes baked steak, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad, roll, dessert and drink. Ticket cost for adults is \$8.50 and children ages 7 to 12 are \$5, children under 6 are free. Carry-outs available at 4:30 p.m. The public is welcome. North Manchester United Methodist Church is handicapped-accessible, with parking in the rear of the church and the East Second Street parking lot.

February Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, Feb. 3, at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. Upper Wabash Interpretive Services interpretive naturalist Lynnanne Fager will share her personal experiences with Indiana bald eagles. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Chicken and noodles and mashed potatoes will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their own table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary

Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Honeywell Foundation's annual art competition open

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@honeywellfoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ to host prom for people with special needs

Bachelor Creek Church of Christ will host Night to Shine 2020 from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 at Northfield High School, 154 W. 200 North. For additional information, visit www.bachelorcreek.com.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

'Death by Chocolate' tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8 at the Charley Creek Inn. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-

330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County March 13

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3> or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Wabash Kiwanis Club's Pancake Day returns in March

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization's largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

Matthew 22:37 | NIV

our take

Manchester Community Schools is doing it right

No matter what your thoughts or feelings are regarding Manchester Community Schools' decision to allow a transgender student to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity, going against the current decision is risky in many ways.

The quality of education provided to our county's children is at stake, literally, and the hatred being spewed across the internet currently is just as toxic and dangerous.

Going against the courts is opening the school up for a lawsuit. Right now, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling in the Whitaker v. Kenosha case makes it clear that transgender people have the right to choose which bathroom they want to use.

Jumping the gun by making a policy that bars the transgender students' choice of the restroom before the U.S. Supreme Court rules on the matter could be a costly mistake. The decision will be reached this summer, so it's best to wait on any policy decisions. The board and administration would be extremely foolish to act otherwise because losing a lawsuit would be costly.

If the board makes rules contrary to where the courts stand, the school corporation will lose money that would be better spent in classrooms. Rural schools are already facing budget cuts and financial constraints.

A lawsuit wouldn't just jeopardize the corporation's money, it would also be a waste of time to make a political statement while other issues like bullying in our local schools fester like a boil.

Also, the overwhelming comments shared at the board meeting and on social media by angry parents send the wrong message to our children. There are better ways to discuss this topic. The unfiltered hatred and outrageous allegations being made online and at the meeting promote discrimination and have dire consequences, whether it is intentional or unintentional.

According to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report published by Centers for Disease and Control researchers, transgender people are six times more likely to commit suicide and are 22 percentage points more likely to be bullied than cis-gendered people whose gender identity matches their biological sex.

The report also found that transgender people are more likely to be victims of violence, and policies that discriminate against them will probably only make these statistics worse.

Multiple people at the meeting said that the minority shouldn't control the majority, but if we lived by this statement, our world would be full of discrimination. If the minority never had rights, there would still be segregation. At the end of the day, we are all human beings, and as Americans we should all be entitled to equality under the eyes of the law.

Some parents went on to make bogus claims that their sons or daughters would be more likely to commit an assault or bully transgender students if the transgender students were allowed to use the bathroom that doesn't match their biological sex. People who share these thoughts are saying more

about themselves and how they've raised their children than about anything to do with the safety of their child.

Other parents shared thoughts about how their children's privacy and physical safety were at stake, especially since people could pretend to be transgender or just walk into any bathroom they wish. These worries are based on fear, not fact.

The reality is that anyone can walk into any bathroom they please. There aren't guards enforcing these unwritten rules.

Also, transgender people are more likely to be the victims of bullying and violence if they are forced to use the bathroom that matches their sex at birth, according to CDC reports.

We are all entitled to our opinions and have the right to express those thoughts, but we need to be extremely careful with how we phrase things. We are talking about a child's life after all. This goes for all people engaging in the debate.

Plus we should all teach our children to never discriminate and that every human life is precious.

If parents want to protect their children, they should petition the school to build single-occupancy bathrooms or other places where their child's safety and privacy can't be compromised.

Hatred and bigotry have no place in Wabash County. Our words carry consequences, and we should be supporting how the school is handling the situation.

Going against the announcement will only bring more harm to our children's education. Let's focus on bigger issues.



Listening to the 'experts' on sex and gender

BY TIMOTHY MORBITZER

At the recent North Manchester school board meeting, concerned parents, grandparents, and citizens were told by the psychiatric experts that "sex" is not "gender." Then, we were told by the legal experts that "sex" is "gender" and that Title IX (which deals only, and specifically, with discrimination "on the basis of sex") means that "sex" is "gender" and that males identifying as females can use the opposite bathroom and shower facilities of their biological sex, that even at an after-school activity this can happen with older males. Do we not see the inherent danger of misuse by sexual predators, pedophiles, and bullies? Does anyone honestly think that when Title IX was written in 1972 that they had in mind bathroom and shower use by the opposite sex?

Then we were told that this "policy" is not a policy and that nothing has been written or voted on or approved by the board, or the public, yet is in use. This is the kind of craziness we are dealing with.

On the other hand, we were not told that many experts, including the team of legal experts at the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), an "international legal al-

liance that advocates for the privacy, dignity, and safety of all students," states:

1. No federal law requires school districts to grant students access to facilities dedicated to the opposite sex.
2. Granting students access to opposite-sex changing areas could subject schools to legal liability for violating students' and/or parents' rights.
3. Schools have broad discretion to regulate the use of school showers, locker rooms, restrooms, and overnight accommodations. They sight numerous legal cases to support this. (Visit adflegal.org).

Title IX is the law; opposite sex facility use is not. According to ADF and others, "there is no federal law requiring schools to treat sex as irrelevant to the restroom, shower, or locker room that students may access."

Likewise, we were not told of the problems of an "open-door" bathroom/locker room policy -- or that many physicians and therapists have expressed grave concerns about gender dysphoria and therapy, and have stated that gender ideology harms children. The American College of Pediatrics asserts, "This new paradigm

is rooted in the assumption that gender dysphoria is innate, but a review of the current literature suggests that this claim is founded upon an unscientific gender ideology and lacks an evidence base." They give numerous resources to clarify this matter. (Visit acpeds.org.)

Lastly, "The Expert" above all experts has weighed in. He has told us that from the beginning He "created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female." (Genesis 1:27) Period. For the record, Adam and Eve -- not Adam and Eve-who-identified-as-Steve. God knows what He is doing.

My appeal is that we stop these verbal gymnastics and this political correctness madness and have some common sense and protect the welfare and safety of all of our young people. No one "hates" anyone; we just want to protect young boys, girls and women from misuse and abuse of this practice, as has already happened elsewhere. No bathroom or locker room use by the opposite sex. (Or gender.)

Which expert will we listen to?

Timothy Morbitzer is pastor of Victory Christian Fellowship in North Manchester.

Men in the girl's restroom at school?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And God saw that it was good. Then, God said, "Let us make people in our image, to be like ourselves." So, God created people in his own image. God patterned them after himself. Male and female, he created them. Then, God looked over all that he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way.

God gave man dominion over all of His creation and gave us his very image and likeness, male and female. Every good gift and perfect present comes from the father of lights. We can think and have language and communicate with each other, and even with God, who wants a relationship with each person individually. Wow!

God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus, he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

But, some have denied the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. Some people deny the sovereignty of God, and that His creation is perfect. Some exchange the truth of God for a lie. Some people want to change the gender with which they were born, or, even worse, force gender transition on a child. Some gender dysphoria may be part of the natural growing and maturation process. But, if someone in authority forces gender transition on a child, isn't that abuse? It used to be. (Let them grow up and decide for themselves as an adult.)

And, what if they would invade the privacy of every female student by allowing a boy (or a man) to use the women's restrooms? Isn't that abusive of all the girls' and women's right to privacy? Why are Manchester Public Schools allowing men and boys to use the girls' restroom and locker rooms?

Alliance Defending Freedom lawyers have stated that nowhere in Title IX law does it say that schools must allow students to use the restroom or lockers of their choice. This was a President Obama-era "rule" that has been rescinded by President Trump, and schools can write their restroom policies. Doesn't it make more sense to accommodate one child with a private restroom than allow him (and men) to invade the privacy of girls in our public school restrooms and lockers? I pray we have godly school administrators and school boards with enough wisdom to protect our children from this insane political correctness. Choose this day if you will serve the creator God.

Jesus said, "If someone should cause one of these little ones to lose his faith in me, it would be better for that person to have a large millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the deep sea." How terrible for the world that there are things that make people lose their faith. Such things will always happen, but how terrible for the one who causes them.

Russell Reahard, of North Manchester, is running for State Representative for District 18, Chester 3 Republican Precinct Committeeman and Wabash County Republican Convention Delegate.

Today in History:

On Jan. 18, 1993, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday was observed in all 50 states for the first time.

On this date:

In 1778, English navigator Captain James Cook reached the present-day Hawaiian Islands, which he named the "Sandwich Islands."

In 1911, the first landing of an aircraft on a ship took place as pilot Eugene B. Ely brought his Curtiss biplane in for a safe landing on the deck of the armored cruiser USS Pennsylvania in San Francisco Harbor.

In 1919, the Paris Peace Conference, held to negotiate peace treaties ending the First World War, opened in Versailles, France.

In 1936, Nobel Prize-winning author Rudyard Kipling, 70, died in London.

In 1943, during World War II, Jewish insurgents in the Warsaw Ghetto launched their initial armed resistance against Nazi troops, who eventually succeeded in crushing the rebellion. The Soviets announced they'd broken through the long Nazi siege of Leningrad (it was another year before the siege was fully lifted). A U.S. ban on the sale of pre-sliced bread -- aimed at reducing bakeries' demand for metal replacement parts -- went into effect.

In 1949, Charles Ponzi, engineer of one of the most spectacular mass swindles in history, died destitute at a hospital in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at age 66.

In 1957, a trio of B-52's completed the first non-stop, round-the-world flight by jet planes, landing at March Air Force Base in California after more than 45 hours aloft.

Pompeo breaks silence on alleged threats to envoy in Ukraine

BY MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday broke nearly 72 hours of silence over alleged surveillance and threats to the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, saying he believed the allegations would prove to be wrong but that he had an obligation to evaluate and investigate the matter.

In interviews with conservative radio hosts, Pompeo said he had no knowledge of the allegations until earlier this week when congressional Democrats released doc-

uments from an associate of President Donald Trump’s personal attorney suggesting that Marie Yovanovitch was being watched. He also said he did not know and had never met Lev Parnas, the associate of Rudy Giuliani who made the claims.

Pompeo, who was traveling in California when the documents were released, had been harshly criticized by lawmakers and current and former diplomats for not addressing the matter. The documents provided by Parnas suggested there may have been a threat to Yovanovitch shortly before she

was abruptly recalled last spring.

“We will do everything we need to do to evaluate whether there was something that took place there,” he said in a radio interview with Tony Katz, an Indianapolis-based broadcaster.

“I suspect that much of what’s been reported will ultimately prove wrong, but our obligation, my obligation as secretary of state, is to make sure that we evaluate, investigate. Any time there is someone who posits that there may have been a risk to one of our officers, we’ll obviously do that.”

“It is always the case at the Department of State that we do everything we can to ensure that our officers, not only our ambassadors but our entire team, has the security level that’s appropriate,” Pompeo said.

“We do our best to make sure that no harm will come to anyone, whether that was what was going on in our embassy in Baghdad last week or the work that was going on in Kyiv up and through the spring of last year when Ambassador Yovanovitch was there, and in our embassy in Kyiv even today,” he said.

FLU

Continued from A1

the lowest of any district in the state, with the state total being 4.83 percent.

Visitor restrictions

Dr. Deborah McMathan, Allen County health commissioner, is advising healthcare facilities impose the following restrictions to help protect patients, visitors and staff:

Anyone coming to a healthcare facility for treatment who has cold- or flu-like symptoms (such as fever, cough or muscle aches) should wear a mask while in public areas, including waiting rooms.

No visitors under the age of 18 and no visitors of any age with flu-like symptoms should be allowed to visit patients.

Visitors should be limited to two essential adults (at least 18-years-old) per patient – essential adults could include designated family members, spouse/domestic partner or spiritual counselors.

Anyone not allergic to the flu vaccine should be vaccinated.

Recommendations were

prompted by the continued uptick in influenza-like illness locally. The more common strains of the virus now being reported are influenza A/H1N1 and influenza B/Victoria, which seem to be covered well by this season’s vaccine, Dr. McMathan said.

Restrictions are recommended to curb unintentional exposure of patients in hospitals, nursing homes or any other confined settings while the community is experiencing widespread influenza transmission.

Influenza can spread during the incubation period – when a person has been exposed and no symptoms are present, but the virus is actively multiplying in his or her body.

Visitor guidelines are similar to those implemented in previous years, and healthcare facilities may have additional restrictions in certain areas as needed. Anyone with questions about restrictions should call the hospital, healthcare facility or nursing home they plan to visit before arriving. Flu activity will be monitored by health officials throughout the season to determine the best time to lift visitor restrictions.

Stay healthy

In addition to the temporary restrictions on visitors, the Department also recommends all residents do the following to minimize flu transmission:

■ **Get vaccinated.** All residents 6 months and older should be vaccinated against influenza, as well as pneumonia and pertussis (if recommended) unless there are known allergies to these vaccines. Flu shots are available at many local pharmacies. Vaccines can also be obtained by scheduling an appointment at the Allen County Department of Health Medical Annex, or visiting local Super Shot locations, urgent care clinics or primary care providers’ offices.

■ **Stay home if you are sick.** All residents experiencing fever and muscle aches should stay home from school, work, shopping or other social gatherings until they have no fever for 24 hours without the benefit of fever-reducing medications. Stock up on items needed for comfort and hydration before getting sick to avoid further flu spread. If you think you need treatment,

consider contacting your primary care physician’s office or healthcare facility of choice first to see if they have a telemedicine option available. Remember antiviral medications are most effective if given within the first 48 hours of symptoms.

■ **Wash your hands frequently.** Use soap and warm water whenever possible; if not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean hands.

■ **Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue.** If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

■ **Wear a mask if needed.** Patients with cough or fever seeking treatment at a healthcare facility should ask for a mask to wear.

Influenza can also exacerbate chronic health conditions – like lung or heart disease and diabetes – and easily morph into bacterial pneumonia. Anyone with chronic health conditions who develops fever should contact their doctor immediately. And remember to check in frequently with elderly loved ones and neighbors, especially if they live alone.

Lawyer for ousted Grammys CEO fires back at academy

BY MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Recording Academy CEO Deborah Dugan, who the company announced Thursday was placed on administrative leave, has fired back in a statement through her lawyer, saying: “What has been reported is not nearly the story that needs to be told.”

The academy said late Thursday that its leader of just six months was put on leave following an allegation of misconduct by a senior leader at the organization – just 10 days before the 2020 Grammy Awards.

But in a statement released Friday to The Associated Press, Dugan’s attorney Bryan Freedman said there’s more to the story.

“What has been reported is not nearly the story that needs to be told. When our ability to speak is not restrained by a 28-page contract and legal threats, we will expose what happens when you ‘step up’ at the Recording Academy, a public nonprofit,” the statement read.

Dugan, the former CEO of Bono’s (RED) organization, became the first woman appointed to lead the academy when she began the job in August. Recording Academy

Board Chair Harvey Mason Jr., the music producer who has worked with Chris Brown, Jennifer Hudson and more, will serve as interim president and CEO of the academy.

“In light of concerns raised to the Recording Academy Board of Trustees, including a formal allegation of misconduct by a senior female member of the Recording Academy team, the board has placed Recording Academy President and CEO Deborah Dugan on administrative leave, effective immediately,” the academy said in a statement to the AP. “The board has also retained two independent third-party investigators to conduct independent investigations of the allegations.”

“The board determined this action to be necessary in order to restore the confidence of the Recording Academy’s membership, repair Recording Academy employee morale, and allow the Recording Academy to focus on its mission of serving all music creators,” the statement continued. “The Recording Academy Board of Trustees is committed to fostering a safe, diverse, and inclusive workplace, music industry, and society.”

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By Dr. Robert Schroering

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In dentistry and dental treatment options, the lowest quote is usually the worst choice and the highest quote is not always the best. In choosing your dental implant options, high quality and high value should be your top two concerns. Price is always an important consideration but shouldn’t be the main concern, especially when it comes to your oral health and wellbeing. The lowest price may be ok for items where both quality and value are not that important, or where when considering all factors between items there is little or no differentiation.

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Squires blank Triton on Senior Night

In the final home meet of the season, the Manchester wrestling team went out with a bang, earning an 81-0 win over Triton on Thursday. Winning by pinfall were Dylan Stroud at 126 pounds, Elijah Burlingame at 132 pounds, Dominic Lincoln at 138 pounds, Zach France at 145 pounds, Jacob Caudill at 170 pounds and Albin Lederhiller at 182 pounds. Jordan Ayres won via decision at 152 pounds, 13-6, while Collin Cummins, Brock Casper, Halley Clifford, Peyton Addair, Ashton Moore, Trevor Dill and Bryce Kamphues all won via forfeit.

Apaches knock off the Giants

The Wabash boys' swim team earned a 105-53 win over Marion on the road on Thursday. The team of Seth Blossom, Michael Cordes, Paul Cordes and Kyle Thomas won the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay. Blossom won the 200- and 500-yard freestyle, Michael Cordes won the 200-yard individual medley and Thomas won the 100-yard butterfly. In the girls' meet, the Apaches fell 76-51. Becca Bruss won the 100-yard butterfly and 100-yard backstroke. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Hope Schoening, Madison Inman, Grace Schoening and Bruss were also victorious.

Vanderbilt alum donates \$5M to men's basketball program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Vanderbilt men's basketball program has received a \$5 million donation from Seattle-based alum George Huber '79 and his wife Cathy. Vanderbilt officials said the money will be used to enhance facilities and support services. Huber stated that "the men's basketball program has the building blocks to become a perennial powerhouse, and we're excited by the opportunity to strengthen the broader Vanderbilt community throughout the program."

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be: E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com. Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail. Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length and clarity.

COLLEGE GOLF



SIGNING: Joined by family, coaches and administrators, Wabash's Bella Carrillo (front row, center) signs to continue her golf career with Manchester University on Thursday.

Carrillo to continue career at Manchester

BY JACOB RUDE sports@wabashplaindealer.com After growing up around the Manchester University women's golf team, Bella Carrillo's decision of where her next stop in her golf career would be was never a difficult one. On Thursday, Carrillo was joined by family and coaches and administrators from Wabash as she committed to the Spartan program. "What led me to want to go to Manchester was the many visits I took," Carrillo said. "And I've been interested in their golf program because they, obviously, practice at Honeywell (Golf Course) and that's where I grew up." Carrillo, who will major in pharmacy, will get the opportunity to continue her career at the next level after spending her life on the links. "It means a lot to me because golf is something I love and I've

grown up with," she said. "I'm just really excited to have the opportunity to play a couple more years." The Apaches last fall were anchored by Carrillo, who spent all four years with Wabash as the No. 1 golfer. In her senior campaign, though, Carrillo and the Apaches took a big leap. The program captured a clean sweep of titles, starting with the Wabash County Invitational title with Carrillo finishing second overall on the day with a round of 86. At the Three Rivers Conference tournament, Wabash captured the program's first conference title with Carrillo earning medalist honors with her round of 82. One week later, the Apaches again made history by winning the sectional title by one stroke. Carrillo was second on the day for Wabash with a round of 90, helping the team to a historic win. The Apache season came to an

end at the sectional with Carrillo carding a round of 84 to finish second for Wabash. Though it was her first trip to the regional with her teammates, Carrillo had been to the regional in years prior. As a junior, Carrillo advanced the regional as an individual where she carded a round of 85. She made the trip her sophomore year as well, carding a round of 90. Carrillo will be joining a Manchester program that has seen success in recent years. Last fall, the Spartans finished third in the Heartland Conference Championship. Two years prior, Manchester finished fourth. For Carrillo, her focus once on campus, though, will be on self-improvement first. "(My goal is) definitely improvement from my senior year," she said. "I felt like my senior year wasn't very great and I feel like I can improve on that a lot."

NFL

Bettors lean heavily on home teams making the Super Bowl

Kansas City and San Francisco have good chance to get to ultimate game

BY BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer Pro Picks is surprised. Consider that the NFC title game is a matchup of the conferences's top two seeds. The spread favors host San Francisco (14-3) over Green Bay (also 14-3) by 7 1-2 points. In the AFC, it's the sixth-seeded Titans (11-7) at No. 2 Kansas City (13-4), which would seem to be more of a mismatch. Yet the spread is also 7 1-2. There's plenty of history surrounding the potential Super Bowl opponents. Should the Packers and Chiefs get there, it will be a rematch of the very first AFL-NFL Championship Game — it's official title back in 1967. Should the 49ers get in, they will be seeking their sixth Super Bowl crown. Pittsburgh and New England lead with six. The Titans are the only one of

the four clubs not to walk off with a Lombardi Trophy. Indeed, they've only been to the big game in 2000, losing to "The Greatest Show on Turf" in one of the most exciting finishes the Super Bowl has seen. Overall, it's been 50 years since Kansas City got there, beating heavily favored Minnesota. NFC These teams don't seem to tire of seeing each other in the post-season. It's the eighth meeting in 25 years, with the Packers up 4-1 — but the four wins were with Brett Favre at quarterback. Both franchises have a rich resume of success. "I think it helps with the age I'm in, I was born in '79, so I remember the Niners throughout the '80s growing up and I was here with my dad in '94 where they won that Super Bowl," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan says, referring to his father, Mike. "I think just being around it, I knew exactly how special it was. "You know, (we've) been a few down years, I think since '12 or whenever it was, but that does happen, too. We knew we had to

build this up and get back here, but we knew how good of an organization it was, and when you do have a good organization, usually those tough times don't last. If you can just stay the course and be a little bit patient." Patience is not a major part of the Niners' current personality. In fact, the Packers with their running game built on the work of Aaron Jones, are the more patient team. They are not, however, the more talented team. BEST BET: 49ERS, 30-20 AFC Let's get it said right away: If Derrick Henry keeps destroying defenses the way he has the past three weeks, the Titans are headed to Miami. And winning there. Henry not only will be the focal point for Tennessee's offense, but also for Kansas City's improved defense. Yeah, we know the Chiefs didn't show much on D in the first quarter last week against Houston, but this is their best unit on that side of the ball under Andy Reid.

MLB

Analysis: Baseball has become a prisoner of technology

Astros, Red Sox and Mets all need new managers

BY RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer NEW YORK — Technology unleashed baseball's Analytics Era, and now it's holding the sport prisoner. AJ Hinch, Alex Cora and Carlos Beltrán are casualties, a triple play of hubris. At the cutting edge with the Houston Astros, now they have been cut. Their sign-stealing system exposed, all three managers were deposed within a whirlwind 72 hours this week that raised questions about the prevalence of the sport's rule breakers. What's next in a game grappling with innovation and plagued by paranoia? Video rooms and dugouts are now monitored by Major League Baseball, like proctors pacing an exam room to stifle students' temptation to cheat. Bench and bullpen telephones are monitored, Big Brother in the commissioner's office listening in to assure compliance. Television feeds in clubhouses were ordered to be delayed by a minimum 8 seconds last year to prevent prying eyes from decoding signals in real time. Should hitters be blocked from reviewing their plate appearances between at-bats? Sure, it helps them detect flaws in their approach. But they also might see a sequence of the catcher's fingers that tip pitches. These are the types of questions MLB executives in the sport's new Rockefeller Center offices are thinking about as spring training approaches. Commissioner Rob Manfred's one-season suspensions of Hinch and Houston general manager Jeff Luhnow signaled the harsh repercussions. "It's a serious problem for baseball, the merging of technology and an ancient game. It seems to me that cheating — and this was clearly cheating — had to

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Nebraska men seek revenge on Indiana

Indiana (13-4, 3-3 Big Ten) vs. Nebraska (7-10, 2-4) Pinnacle Bank Arena, Lincoln, Neb, Saturday, 7 p.m.

BOTTOM LINE: Nebraska seeks revenge on Indiana after dropping the first matchup in Bloomington. The teams last played each other on Dec. 13, when the Hoosiers outshot Nebraska from the field 47.1 percent to 44 percent and made 15 more free throws en route to a six-point victory. STEPPING UP: Nebraska's Cam Mack has averaged 12.5 points, 4.7 rebounds and 6.7 assists while Haanif Cheatham has put up 12.9 points and 4.2 rebounds. For the Hoosiers, Trayce Jackson-Davis has averaged 14 points, 7.9 rebounds and 2.1 blocks while Justin Smith has put up 12 points and 5.4 rebounds. OFFENSIVE THREAT: Mack has accounted for 51 percent of all Nebraska field goals over the last three games. The sophomore guard has 15 field goals and 23 assists in those games. WINLESS WHEN: Nebraska is 0-6 this year when it scores 68 points or fewer and 7-4 when it scores at least 69. UNBEATEN WHEN: Indiana is a perfect 12-0 when the team records five or more steals. The Hoosiers are 1-4 when they steal the ball fewer than five times. DID YOU KNOW: Indiana has posted an outstanding offensive rebound percentage of 35.2 percent, ranking the Hoosiers 23rd nationally in that category. The offensive rebound percentage for Nebraska stands at just 22.8 percent (ranked 317th).

CALENDAR

AUTO RACING				Ka'upulehu-Kona, Hawaii			
2:30 p.m.				1:30 a.m. (Sunday)			
FS2: FIA Formula E: Qualifying, Santiago, Chile (taped)				GOLF: Asian Tour: The Singapore Open, Final Round, Singapore			
3:30 p.m.				3:30 a.m. (Sunday)			
FS2: FIA Formula E: The Santiago E-Prix, Santiago, Chile (taped)				GOLF: EPGA Tour: The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, Final Round, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates			
10 p.m.				HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOY'S)			
NBCSN: Monster Energy AMA Supercross: Round 3, Anaheim, Calif.				9 p.m.			
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)				CBSSN: Tournament of Champions: Teams TBD, Championship, Springfield, Mo.			
12 p.m.				HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL			
ESPN: North Carolina at Pittsburgh				12 a.m. (Sunday)			
ESPN2: Baylor at Oklahoma State				CBSSN: The Polynesian Bowl: Team Mauka vs. Team Makai, Halawa, Hawaii			
ESPNU: Ohio State at Penn State				MIXED MARTIAL ARTS			
FOX: Seton Hall at St. John's				8 p.m.			
FS1: Connecticut at Villanova				ESPN: UFC 246 Prelims: Undercard			
12:30 p.m.				Bouts, Las Vegas			
NBCSN: La Salle at Rhode Island				NBA BASKETBALL			
1 p.m.				3:30 p.m.			
ACCN: Florida State at Miami				ABC: LA Clippers at New Orleans			
SECN: South Carolina at Texas A&M				6 p.m.			
1:30 p.m.				NBATV: Milwaukee at Brooklyn			
CBS: Auburn at Florida				8:30 p.m.			
2 p.m.				ABC: LA Lakers at Houston			
CBSSN: St. Bonaventure at Virginia Commonwealth				NHL HOCKEY			
ESPN: Kansas at Texas				7 p.m.			
ESPN2: Purdue at Maryland				NHLN: Chicago at Toronto			
ESPNU: West Virginia at Kansas State				RUGBY			
FS1: Marquette at Georgetown				1 a.m. (Sunday)			
2:30 p.m.				NBCSN: Heineken Cup: Lyon vs. Northampton (taped)			
FOX: Colorado at Arizona				SKIING			
NBCSN: Richmond at George Mason				5 p.m.			
3:30 p.m.				NBC: FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Giant Slalom, Sestriere, Italy (taped)			
SECN: Missouri at Alabama				8 p.m.			
3:45 p.m.				NBCSN: FIS Alpine World Cup: Men's Downhill, Wengen Switzerland (taped)			
CBS: Oregon at Washington				9 p.m.			
4 p.m.				NBCSN: FIS Alpine World Cup: Women's Giant Slalom, Sestriere, Italy (taped)			
CBSSN: St. Mary's College at Pepperdine				SOCCER (MEN'S)			
ESPN: Kentucky at Arkansas				7:25 a.m.			
ESPN2: Houston at Wichita State				NBCSN: Premier League: Tottenham at Watford			
ESPNU: Iowa State at Texas Tech				9:30 a.m.			
PAC-12N: Oregon State at Washington State				FS1: Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund at FC Augsburg			
4:30 p.m.				FS2: Bundesliga: Frankfurt at Hoffenheim			
FS1: Providence at Creighton				9:55 a.m.			
NBCSN: George Washington at Massachusetts				NBCSN: Premier League: Sheffield United at Arsenal			
5 p.m.				12:20 p.m.			
BTN: Northwestern at Illinois				FS2: Bundesliga: Union Berlin at RB Leipzig			
6 p.m.				12:30 p.m.			
CBSSN: New Mexico at Nevada (Las Vegas)				NBC: Chelsea at Newcastle United			
ESPN: Louisville at Duke				5:55 p.m.			
ESPN2: Northern Iowa at Bradley				FS2: Liga MX: Morelia at Monterrey			
ESPNU: South Florida at Central Florida				6:25 a.m. (Sunday)			
SECN: Tennessee at Vanderbilt				ESPN2: Serie A: Udinese at AC Milan			
6:30 p.m.				SWIMMING			
PAC-12N: Stanford at Southern California				6:30 p.m.			
7 p.m.				NBCSN: TYR: Pro Swim Series, Knoxville, Tenn.			
BTN: Indiana at Nebraska				TENNIS			
8 p.m.				2:30 a.m.			
ACCN: Virginia at Georgia Tech				TENNIS: ATP: Adelaide International, Singles Final			
CBSSN: Nevada (Reno) at San Diego State				Sunday, January 19			
ESPN2: Louisiana State at Mississippi				BIATHLON			
ESPNU: Temple at Southern Methodist				7 p.m.			
8:30 p.m.				NCBSN: IBU World Cup: Men's 12.5km Pursuit, Ruhpolding, Germany (taped)			
SECN: Georgia at Mississippi State				BOBSLEDDING/SKELETON			
9 p.m.				10 p.m.			
PAC-12N: Utah at Arizona State				NBCSN: IBSF World Cup: Four-Man Bobsled, Innsbruck, Austria (taped)			
10 p.m.				BOWLING			
ESPN2: Brigham Young at Gonzaga				1 p.m.			
ESPNU: Utah State at Boise State				FS1: PBA: Hall of Fame Classic, Arlington, Texas			
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)				COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)			
12 p.m.				12 p.m.			
CBSSN: Duquesne at St. Joseph's				CBSSN: Davidson at Fordham			
8 p.m.				1 p.m.			
FS1: West Virginia at Baylor				BTN: Minnesota at Rutgers			
COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD				4 p.m.			
11 a.m.				ESPNU: Loyola Chicago at Illinois State			
BTN: Big Ten Invitational: From Ann Arbor, Mich.				6 p.m.			
COLLEGE WRESTLING				ESPNU: East Carolina at Cincinnati			
2:30 p.m.				8 p.m.			
BTN: Indiana at Northwestern				ESPN: California at UCLA			
9 p.m.				COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)			
BTN: Nebraska at Iowa				12 p.m.			
GOLF				ESPNU: Duke at Clemson			
12 p.m.				1 p.m.			
ESPNEWS: Latin America Amateur Championship: Third Round, Mayakoba, Mexico				ACCN: Miami at Notre Dame			
2 p.m.				ESPN2: Louisville at North Carolina			
GOLF: PGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Orlando, Fla.				2 p.m.			
3 p.m.				CBSSN: Saint Louis at Dayton			
GOLF: PGA Tour: The American Express, Third Round, Palm Springs, Calif.				ESPNU: Auburn at Georgia			
NBC: PGA Tour: PGA Tour: The Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions, Third Round, Orlando, Fla.				SECN: Kentucky at Louisiana State			
7 p.m.							
GOLF: Champions Tour: The Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Final Round,							

SCOREBOARD

NFL				San Antonio 17 22 .436 8½ New Orleans 16 26 .381 11				Philadelphia at New York, 7:30 p.m. Cleveland at Chicago, 8 p.m. Toronto at Minnesota, 8 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8:30 p.m. Orlando at Golden State, 8:30 p.m. Portland at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m. Sacramento at Utah, 9 p.m.				Vegas 50 25 19 6 56155 15 Edmonton 48 25 18 5 55148 10 San Jose 49 21 24 4 46129 163 Anaheim 47 18 24 5 41120 149 Los Angeles 49 18 26 5 41120 154			
Conference Championships Sunday, Jan. 19 Tennessee at Kansas City, 3:05 p.m. (CBS) Green Bay at San Francisco, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)				Northwest Division W L Pct GB Denver 29 12 .707 — Utah 28 13 .683 1 Oklahoma City 23 18 .561 6 Portland 18 24 .429 11½ Minnesota 15 25 .375 13½				Sunday's Games Miami at San Antonio, 3 p.m. Indiana at Denver, 8 p.m.				NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.			
Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 26 At Orlando, Fla. AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN)				Pacific Division W L Pct GB L.A. Lakers 33 8 .805 — L.A. Clippers 29 13 .690 4½ Phoenix 17 24 .415 16 Sacramento 15 26 .366 18 Golden State 9 34 .209 25				NHL				Thursday's Games Boston 4, Pittsburgh 1 Columbus 3, Carolina 2 Florida 4, Los Angeles 3 N.Y. Rangers 3, N.Y. Islanders 2 Montreal 4, Philadelphia 1 Calgary 2, Toronto 1, SO Vegas 5, New Jersey 2 Wegas 4, Ottawa 2 Minnesota 3, Tampa Bay 2 Anaheim 4, Nashville 2 Buffalo 4, Dallas 1 Colorado 4, San Jose 0 Vancouver 3, Arizona 1			
Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 2 NFC champion vs. AFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)				Wednesday's Games Philadelphia 117, Brooklyn 106 Detroit 116, Boston 103 Miami 106, San Antonio 100 Indiana 104, Minnesota 99 Toronto 130, Oklahoma City 121 Chicago 115, Washington 106 Denver 100, Charlotte 86 Portland 117, Houston 107 Dallas 127, Sacramento 123 Orlando 119, L.A. Lakers 118				EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division Boston 49 28 9 12 68 163 129 Tampa Bay 47 28 15 4 60 168 136 Toronto 48 25 16 7 57 174 159 Florida 46 25 16 5 55 170 159 Buffalo 48 22 19 7 51 144 150 Montreal 49 21 21 7 49 150 153 Ottawa 47 16 23 8 40 125 161 Detroit 47 12 32 3 27 102 183				Friday's Games Anaheim at Carolina Pittsburgh at Detroit Tampa Bay at Winnipeg			
NBA				Thursday's Games Phoenix 121, New York 98 Milwaukee 128, Boston 123 New Orleans 138, Utah 132, OT Denver 134, Golden State 131, OT L.A. Clippers 122, Orlando 95				Metropolitan Division Washington 48 32 11 5 69 171 140 Pittsburgh 47 29 13 5 63 162 129 N.Y. Islanders 46 28 14 4 60 134 122 Carolina 47 27 18 2 56 152 128 Columbus 48 24 16 8 56 127 126 Philadelphia 48 25 17 6 56 151 149 N.Y. Rangers 46 23 19 4 50 155 153 New Jersey 47 17 23 7 41 126 168				Saturday's Games Washington vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1 p.m. St. Louis at Colorado, 3 p.m. Arizona at Edmonton, 3 p.m. Calgary at Ottawa, 4 p.m. New Jersey at Columbus, 7 p.m. Florida at Detroit, 7 p.m. Vegas at Montreal, 7 p.m. Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 7 p.m. Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m. Buffalo at Nashville, 8 p.m. Dallas at Minnesota, 9 p.m. San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.			
EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division W L Pct GB Boston 27 13 .675 — Toronto 26 14 .650 1 Philadelphia 26 16 .619 2 Brooklyn 18 22 .450 9 New York 11 31 .262 17				Southeast Division W L Pct GB Miami 28 12 .700 — Orlando 20 22 .476 9 Charlotte 15 29 .341 15 Washington 13 27 .325 15 Atlanta 9 32 .220 19½				WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division W L Pct GB Milwaukee 37 6 .860 — Indiana 26 15 .634 10 Chicago 15 27 .357 21½ Detroit 15 27 .357 21½ Cleveland 12 29 .293 24				WESTERN CONFERENCE Central Division St. Louis 48 30 10 8 68 155 129 Colorado 47 26 15 6 58 168 137 Dallas 47 27 16 4 58 125 113 Winnipeg 47 25 18 4 54 145 140 Chicago 48 22 20 6 50 141 153 Nashville 46 21 18 7 49 154 153 Minnesota 47 21 20 6 48 141 159			
Central Division W L Pct GB Milwaukee 37 6 .860 — Indiana 26 15 .634 10 Chicago 15 27 .357 21½ Detroit 15 27 .357 21½ Cleveland 12 29 .293 24				Western Conference Southwest Division W L Pct GB Houston 26 14 .650 — Dallas 26 15 .634 ½ Memphis 19 22 .463 7½				WESTERN CONFERENCE Pacific Division Calgary 49 26 18 5 57 133 142 Arizona 50 26 19 5 57 143 31 Vancouver 48 26 18 4 56 158 148				Sunday's Games Boston at Pittsburgh, 12:30 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 5 p.m. Winnipeg at Chicago, 7 p.m. Columbus at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.			

NFL

Of remaining coaches, Andy Reid is the outlier

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Of the coaches in the NFL's Final Four, Andy Reid is the outlier.

Only Kansas City's coach has been the head man in a Super Bowl. Only Reid is close to having a Hall of Fame-worthy resume. Only Reid has been around for a couple of decades.

So, while Tennessee's Mike Vrabel, Green Bay's Matt LaFleur and San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan might look up to Reid and his career achievements, they also recognize that whichever of them wins the NFL title will be doing so for the first time as a coach.

No, despite his longevity as Eagles and then Chiefs coach, and his 15 trips to the postseason, Reid has never lifted the Lombardi Trophy.

"Listen, you've known me a long time, I'm thinking more about the players than I'm thinking about myself," Reid says. "That's now where I go — I'm trying to get the guys ready, I'm going to make sure I'm ready, then I'm going to go play. I don't really look at it that way: It's more a disappointment for the other teams, they worked their tails off and fell short."

What Shanahan and LaFleur certainly can admire about Reid is his forward-thinking approach on offense. Both of them are bred in offense, and they rarely back off. While Reid has been a bit more conservative — at least until Patrick Mahomes showed up — Shanahan and LaFleur rarely get shy with the ball.

Vrabel has a defensive background, having won

three Super Bowls as a line-backer in New England. Though nobody who saw him catch passes, including for a touchdown in the 2005 game against Reid and the Eagles, can forget his hand in the Patriots offense.

That's hardly the only connection among this quartet.

The ties between the Niners and Packers coaching staffs run deep. LaFleur worked under Shanahan on staffs in Houston, Washington and Atlanta before heading in his own direction. LaFleur's brother, Mike, is the passing game coordinator in San Francisco and was blocked by Shanahan this past offseason when Matt wanted to hire him as offensive coordinator in Green Bay.

"It's always a little bit different just because of how

close you are with the other person," Shanahan says. "I know Matt and Mike are as close as any brothers could be just like most people are with siblings, but it really doesn't matter. There's a lot of talk to it and stuff, but I mean, there's no feeling when that game goes on, there's no feelings when you're studying and preparing."

"Everyone cares about the other person. I know if we weren't in it, I know he'd be pulling for his brother just like when I wasn't going against my dad (long-time coach Mike Shanahan), I was always pulling for him. But, I know when you go against each other, that stuff doesn't matter. Everyone's got a job to do and everyone is pretty competitive and wants to win, also."

Matt LaFleur also has a very tight relationship with 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh. They were roommates as graduate assistants at Central Michigan and have been close friends since. Saleh recommended LaFleur for his first NFL job as a quality control offensive assistant with the Texans in 2008-09, when Shanahan was offensive coordinator.

"I was messing with him the other day," LaFleur says. "I asked him to call me. I shot him a text message. I said, 'Hey, would you give me a call? I have a couple questions about your defense.'"

"That was the last of the communication."

Shanahan also spent a year as offensive coordinator in Cleveland when Packers defensive coordinator Mike

Pettine was head coach in 2014. Shanahan resigned from that job after one season and left to take the same position in Atlanta.

Vrabel doesn't have any connections in that way. He is the only one of the four who has won a Super Bowl.

"I think there's always experiences that you try to draw from as a player," Vrabel says. "I mean, that's what I have (done). I spent 14 years in the National Football League, and I don't even know how many play-off games, but those were good experiences about preparation and really focusing on what got us to this point from where we were at different points in the season. And then, there's also things that I have to do as a coach to make sure that we're ready."

Prolific 49ers TE Kittle takes great joy in run blocking

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Pro Football Writer

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — No tight end in NFL history has been as productive as George Kittle at catching the ball over the first three years of a career.

A player that skilled as a receiver might be expected to ask, or even demand, for the ball to come his way plenty of times on offense.

But instead of spending his time telling his coaches on the San Francisco 49ers or quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo how open he is, Kittle has other play-calling requests instead.

"Everyone knows what he's done in the pass game, but he has never once in three years came up to me during a game and said, 'Hey I need this route.' Or, 'Hey we've got to do this,'" coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He's never once came up to me about a pass play, but he comes up to me about every seven plays about what type of run play we need to do, who we need to allow him to hit, things like that. It makes it very fun to call plays for him."

For as accomplished a receiver as Kittle may be with his 197 catches and 2,664 yards receiving ranking as the most ever by a tight end through three seasons, it's

his ability as a run blocker that truly sets him apart from some of the other top tight ends in the league who do most of their work in the passing game.

That skill was on display last week when Kittle's blocking helped the Niners (14-3) generate a franchise-playoff record 47 carries for 186 yards in a 27-10 victory over Minnesota.

Right tackle Mike Glinchey said Kittle has the mentality of an offensive lineman and is one of the key components of the running game.

"That's what's really cool about George and the best part about him," McGlinchey said. "He takes more pride in how he's doing in the run game than he does in the pass game even though he's the best at both." The 49ers' running game looks completely different when Kittle is healthy and is able to seal the edge with his blocks that help fuel the outside zone running game. San Francisco averaged only 2.9 yards per carry in three games when Kittle was either sidelined or severely limited by injuries to his knee and ankle. That compares to a 4.8 yard average in the other games.

So that shows the kind of impact he can make even

when he's not producing in the passing game.

He had only three catches for 16 yards for his fewest yards in a game since his rookie year in 2017 in the playoff opener against the Vikings but that didn't bother him at all.

"I take pride in my run game," Kittle said. "That's how I grade myself in games. Passing yards and receiving yards take care of themselves. I take pride in it."

Perhaps that's to be expected from a player who caught only 48 passes in 25 college games at Iowa, as he fell to the fifth round of the draft.

The Niners believed in his athleticism and potential and were surprised he lasted beyond the third round. But they were very fortunate he was there at 146th overall as the ninth tight end selected in that draft.

"We were just shocked that he was still sitting there in the fifth," Shanahan said. "But, he had all the measurables and everything you could see the stuff on tape. But, he didn't have a lot of production in the pass game. They didn't do that a lot at their school, they did more run game and he was a great run blocker. I feel like people called him just a

run blocker just because he didn't have the stats. But, stats don't tell you much, it's how you move."

The Niners figure to rely more heavily on Kittle in the passing game this week when they host the Green Bay Packers in the NFC title game.

While the Vikings were the top-ranked defense in the NFL in the regular season when it came to defending tight ends, the Packers haven't had that same kind of success.

Kittle had six catches for 129 yards, including a 61-yard TD, when the teams played back in November in a 37-8 win for San Francisco.

"He's always a big part of our plan," Shanahan said. "But, you never know how the game's going to go until the game starts. And a lot of things go and you take into account over that. But, you have no idea what coverages they're going to play, how the game's going, but we'll see. He always has a chance to."

NOTES: LB Kwon Alexander (pectoral) and DE Dee Ford (quadriceps, hamstring) were the only players limited at practice. ... The Niners practiced in the rain but the forecast for Sunday is dry.

Davante Adams' drive to be great has become an 'obsession'

BY KEITH JENKINS
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Davante Adams obsesses about being great.

The Green Bay Packers wide receiver wasn't a five-star recruit. He wasn't the biggest, fastest or most athletic. He wasn't even a football player until late in his high school career.

But the two-time Pro Bowler has worked himself into being Aaron Rodgers' top option and is one win away from playing in his first Super Bowl. Adams and the Packers will face the San Francisco 49ers in Sunday's NFC championship game, just a few miles from his native Palo Alto, California.

"I'm trying not to (freak out)," Adams said on Wednesday. "But, I mean, we're all excited in here. This is a great opportunity. We understand what's in front of us."

Adams, who caught two touchdowns and had a franchise playoff-record 160 yards in a win over the Seattle Seahawks last Sunday in the NFC divisional round, now must face one of the top defenses in the NFL and one of the league's best cornerbacks.

"Well, I mean, it doesn't change, really," Adams said on facing Richard Sherman. "He's definitely a great player, and people have said a lot about whether he's fell

off or what not and I don't see that. I see that he's still the same guy, still making plays."

Sherman's 35 interceptions since entering the league in 2011 are the most among active players during that span. The 31-year-old is looking to make his third Super Bowl appearance after being one of the key parts to the Seahawks' back-to-back Super Bowl appearances in the 2013 and 2014 seasons. Though Sherman's resume is longer than Adams', the respect between the two is mutual.

"He's very good at beating man coverage," Sherman said. "When guys that are hard to cover because of their quickness, their feet, their size and their hands, it's tough in the zone. They've got a good quarterback who gets the ball in the right spot. Davante's definitely their best guy beating man to man."

What makes Adams special is his release off the line of scrimmage. It's a skill he acquired during his years as a basketball player and one that he works tirelessly every day to master.

"I'd say obsession is a good word for it," he said. "... I don't know at which point exactly it turned into that, but once I started realizing I could lose people at the line of scrimmage and essentially run a route on air, I figured that that was

the way to go. So I just put a lot into that and obviously I made it a big part of who I am as a football player."

Since Green Bay drafted Adams in the second round in 2014 out of Fresno State, the 6-foot-1, 215-pounder has grown from being Rodgers' third or fourth option behind the likes of Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb to one of the most productive pass catchers in the league. Adams was on pace for his second straight 1,000-yard season before a turf toe injury in Week 4 against the Eagles sidelined him four weeks. Adams finished with 997 yards.

Rodgers said what has changed most about Adams in their six seasons together is Adams' ability to use his mind to his advantage.

"Because he's made certain plays throughout the year where him and I have had conversations either on the sidelines or in the locker room after the game and he will bring up certain plays from previous games or previous years," Rodgers said.

Adams said that recall has just come with time. He remembered a game last season against the Cardinals when the two linked up for a 13-yard touchdown in the back of the end zone after Rodgers gave Adams a simple point.

"When you get a certain amount of reps under your belt, I think that that's what

puts you in position where now you can kind of read each other's body language," he said.

The Packers will need more than body language to defeat a 49ers team that dominated them 37-8 in Week 12. The lopsided loss was Green Bay's worst of the season. San Francisco will no doubt look to take away Rodgers' No. 1 option.

"You have to understand what they're going to try to do to us, and obviously taking away 17 has got to be right near the top of the list because he's so talented," Rodgers said. "So we're going to have to find ways to get him the football still. The best offenses that we've watched over the years, you still find a way to get the ball to your go-to guy."

Adams already has 18 tickets to Sunday's game to accommodate family and friends who will be in attendance. But he said there's no pressure for him to perform well.

"The pressure is really on them," Adams said of the 49ers. "They went out there and they dominated us last game and we did not take care of business the way we should have. It's only up from here as far as how we go about it. ... It just wasn't a good showing, so we kind of bottled that up, that feeling, and we're ready to convert that into something great."

High-powered Titans lean heavily on Henry, with options ready

BY TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Derrick Henry is making clear he only gets better the more times he gets the ball.

"I think I get in a rhythm the more carries I get," Henry said Thursday. "I get a better feel for the game as the game goes on."

After the Titans gave him 30 or more carries only once through his first three seasons, Henry now has carried 32, 34 and 30 times in each of the past three games. He has set the franchise single-game rushing record twice this postseason, topping himself in each game and helping Tennessee into Sunday's AFC championship game against Kansas City (13-4) for the team's first appearance since the 2002 season.

The Titans are using the 6-foot-3, 247-pound Henry as a powerful battering ram.

That's what Nick Saban did during Henry's Heisman Trophy season while winning the 2015 national championship at Alabama. Saban told The Associated Press that watching Henry run this postseason is very similar to the load the running back handled late in that 2015 season.

Saban said that's who Henry is.

"He's a big strong guy. He's fast. He's hard to tackle. He's got a great stiff arm," Saban said. "He's got a lot of confidence in his ability. He's very instinctive as a player, and he's being utilized in a way that features all those talents now. That's what we did based on the kind of team we had his last year in 2015, and he delivered for us the same way he's delivering for them."

Believing the Titans' only offensive threat is Henry would be a mistake even if Ryan Tannehill didn't have to throw for more than 88 yards in either Tennessee's win at New England or at Baltimore.

Tannehill became the NFL's top-rated passer after taking over in mid-October, and the Titans' offense has been among the NFL's most potent since then with him spreading the ball around.

They led the league over the final 10 weeks of the regular season averaging 6.94 yards per offensive play. They averaged 30.4 points a game in that span, which was third behind only Baltimore and New Orleans. They managed 406.2 yards as well, behind only Dallas and Tampa.

The Titans led the NFL scoring touchdowns on 75.6% of trips inside an opponent's 20, and they've been even better with Tannehill scoring on 31 of 35 red zone trips (88.6%). Tannehill said the Titans have been through a lot of ups and downs this season and won games in a lot of different ways. They also led the NFL with 13 different play-

ers scoring at least one TD inside the red zone, including the playoffs.

"With that comes a lot of belief and a lot of confidence in one another that it doesn't really matter what play call comes in, we'll find a way to make it work," Tannehill said. "Obviously, Derrick is running his tail off right now, and the receivers are doing a good job of making plays when the opportunities come."

The biggest difference may be on the offensive line. Coach Mike Vrabel joked this week the Titans couldn't put any more money into the left side with Taylor Lewan made the highest-paid left tackle in July 2018 and left guard Rodger Saffold signed last March to a \$44 million deal. They also drafted Nate Davis, who moved into the starting lineup at right guard in October.

The group simply needed time together, and the bye week in November helped. Now the linemen have meshed and are being very physical, a difference easily seen with only two sacks allowed over the past three games.

"We have a lot of confidence as a group, and it's really allowing us to push people down the field creating run lanes for Derrick," Saffold said. "It's allowing us to get time for Ryan to throw to his receivers ... You add all that together, you have a great offense. That with the defense playing outstanding, we're a tough team to beat."

The Titans are playing so well together that the Ravens couldn't slow Henry down as he ran for 195 yards in their 28-12 divisional win. They had eight or more defenders close to the line on 63% of Henry's rushes or 19 times. He finished with 124 yards, the most by any player in a game with at least eight close to the line this season according to Next Gen Stats.

But then Henry also faced the most stacked boxes with at least eight or more defenders all season on 135 carries, and he led the NFL with 729 yards and 13 TDs in those situations, according to Next Gen Stats.

The Chiefs gave up 188 yards rushing to Henry on Nov. 10 on just 23 carries. Kansas City linebacker Anthony Hitchens said they'll have to gang tackle Henry the way he's running wild right now, and they know just where to target.

"Kill the engine," Hitchens said. "Hit his thighs, hit his legs, take him down. If you hit him high, he's going to carry you for another 5 yards."

If the Titans ask Tannehill to hand off to Henry another 30 times, the quarterback is ready.

"Obviously I love throwing the ball, but I just want to win," Tannehill said.

Girlfriend's birthday bouquet arrives in shabby condition

DEAR ABBY: Is there a delicate way for me to tell my boyfriend not to use the same online floral delivery service again? The birthday bouquet he had delivered to me arrived with a limp, wilted, torn petals and leaves and broken stems. It was one of those box-of-flowers deliveries.

Dear Abby



I doubt my boyfriend realized they would not arrive in a vase and arranged by a florist. Instead, they had been packed in a box, without water, with the vase packed alongside, delivered by a regular package courier.

I usually send him a photo of my bouquet along with my heartfelt thanks, and while I thanked him as usual, I did not send a picture of the bouquet because I knew he would feel bad – both about the lackluster arrangement, and the money he had spent on them.

I found what I believe was the intended arrangement on the website, and it was lovely – a far cry from what was delivered to me. I love my twice-a-year flowers (birthday and Christmas), and I don't want to come across as critical or ungrateful. I am blessed to have such a thoughtful partner.

If flowers were just a one-time gift, I would not even consider mentioning it. However, with Valentine's Day (and another flower delivery) approaching, I wonder if I should let my boyfriend know that it might be better to use a local florist to ensure he is getting his money's worth. Or should I just cross my fingers that it was a one-off? – Ungrateful Girlfriend

DEAR "UNGRATEFUL": Tell your boyfriend why you didn't send him a photo of the flowers he sent as you usually do. He has a right to know, and it will not make you appear ungrateful. He may be able to get a refund if the order was mishandled and he had ordered an arrangement in a vase. And if the vendor is not forthcoming, he may choose to deal with a different one next time. Please give him the option.

DEAR ABBY: I'm one half of a female best friend duo in our early 30s. We both live with clinical depression, and my friend also has ADHD. During most of our 20s, neither of us did a good job of coping with these issues, but we were able to laugh it off together. Now, after putting in a lot of work, I'm finally in a healthy place, and I intend to continue getting better from here.

My best friend, however, is managing her own mental health as poorly as ever. She doesn't have the interest or the motivation to help herself the way I have, and she resents when others try to talk to her about it. I sense she wishes I was like I used to be.

I'm starting to feel like being around her is no longer healthy for me, but I don't know what to do. I don't have many other friends. I live out of state from my family, and I still love her dearly. How should I proceed? – Self-Helper In California

DEAR SELF-HELPER: Proceed by continuing to move forward. If you seek out new activities, you will meet more people with common interests. Do not drop her. Call her periodically to check in, and make a point of inviting her to join you in some of your new interests. However, if she refuses, do not let it deter you from doing what you must to aid in your healing. I congratulate you for finding the strength to get the help you needed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Eggy drink
- 4 Food fish
- 7 Prez backup
- 11 Nocturnal predator
- 12 "Brian's Song" star
- 13 Russian range
- 14 Flower lover
- 15 Mystique
- 16 Roman historian
- 17 Blackens
- 19 Molding
- 20 "— Gotta Be Me"
- 21 Gotcha!
- 22 Syrup source
- 25 Voting number
- 28 Baseball stat.
- 29 From memory
- 31 Bird's beak
- 33 — Vegas
- 34 Huge amount
- 36 Chinese "way"
- 37 Nursery-rhyme girl (2 wds.)

- 40 Dejected
- 42 Leia's love
- 43 Bleat
- 44 Occasion for leis
- 46 Soda bottle size
- 49 Low-lying clouds
- 50 Thwart a villain
- 52 Snatch
- 54 Up to the job
- 55 Busy insects
- 56 Retiree's kitty
- 57 Plays with idly
- 58 Monsieur's nose
- 59 Family room

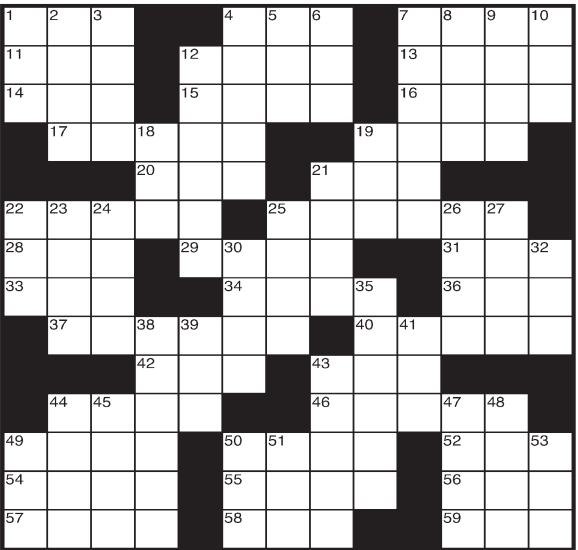
DOWN

- 1 San Francisco hill
- 2 Is indebted
- 3 Mirth
- 4 Grounds
- 5 Paddle
- 6 Forensic sci. tool
- 7 Coarse
- 8 Great Lake

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Y	A	M		C	O	B		V	I	N		
E	C	O		E	X	E	C		V	E	T	O
N	C	O		D	I	L	L		A	G	E	D
	T	R	E	A	D	L	E		L	A	M	E
		M	R	I		A	M		I	S	S	
B	E	A	U		Z	O	N	E	S			
E	L	M		P	E	A		W	E	A	R	S
D	I	T	C	H		T	V	S		V	E	E
		I	D	A	H	O		H	E	F	T	
	N	O	R	S	E		I	S	M			
M	A	R	C		S	E	C	T	O	R	S	
O	V	A	L		O	D	I	E		O	A	K
P	A	L	E		P	A	N	E		A	R	E
E	L	S			M	G	R		R	A	G	

- 9 Roof overhang
- 10 Thickness
- 12 Sculptor
- 18 Feel pain
- 19 Taunting cry
- 21 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author
- 22 Blanc or Gibson
- 23 Sheik or sultan
- 24 El —, Texas
- 25 Swab brand (hyph.)
- 26 Till
- 27 Fermented honey
- 30 Friendly
- 32 Son
- 35 Online messages
- 38 Moon stages
- 39 Water, on the Seine
- 41 Cereal unit
- 43 Football charge
- 44 Wolf, to Pedro
- 45 Unsightly
- 47 Novelist — Bagnold
- 48 Not common
- 49 Blubber
- 50 Wind maker
- 51 Half a pair
- 53 Outlaw



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

	6			7	3			1
	4			9	1			
						9		4
6	7	1		8				
5								1
				1		7	4	6
7		2						
				5	4			7
	3			6	2			5

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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	4	6	7	1	5	8	3	2
3	2	1	6	8	4	7	9	5
5	8	7	9	3	2	6	1	4
2	3	5	8	4	7	1	6	9
6	9	4	3	5	1	2	7	8
1	7	8	2	6	9	5	4	3
4	5	3	1	2	6	9	8	7
8	6	9	5	7	3	4	2	1
7	1	2	4	9	8	3	5	6

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOAAR

CFARS

EDITEC

MUEHAN

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Our fans are going crazy for you. They don't even know my name. They do now.

FOR RINGO, REPLACING PETE BEST AS THE BEATLES' DRUMMER ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOLLY BOUND TUSSLE HOAGIE Answer: The store was closing, and loyal customers came in on the final day for the — LAST GOOD-BUYS"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

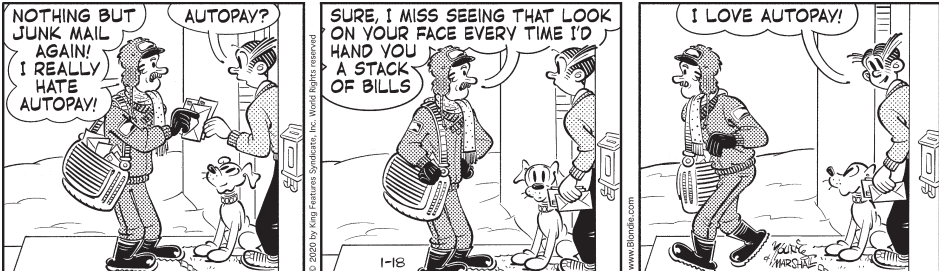


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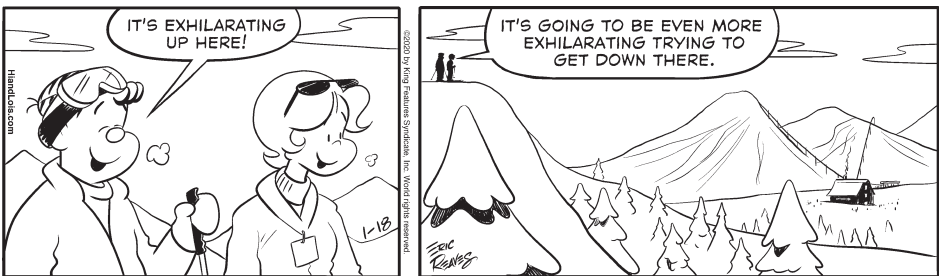
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



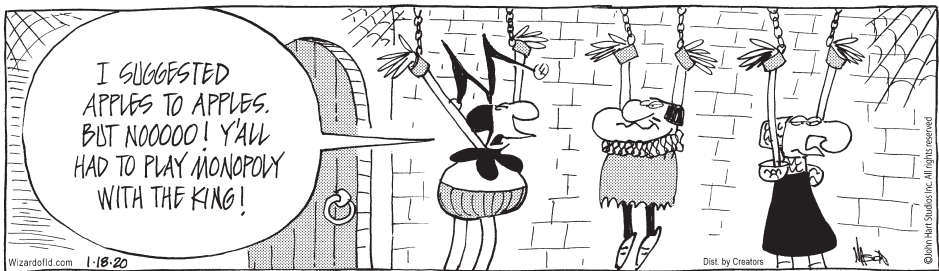
HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



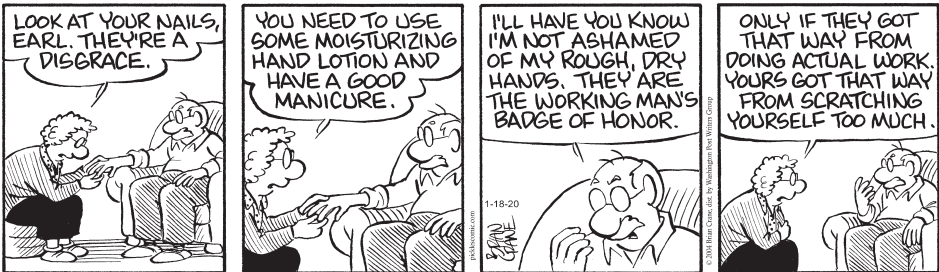
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



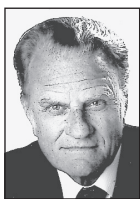
The power of prayer

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Is it right to attend services that invite other religions to pray to their false gods? – F.G.

A: Many ask, "To whom shall we pray?" The answer is the Source of the power. Prayer to the Lord Jesus Christ, in His name, is the key to prayer.

Billy Graham My Answer



Uniting in prayer to the gods of this world will avail nothing. A clear demonstration of this is the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. But Elijah used the opportunity to proclaim the power of prayer in the name of the Lord God.

The purpose of prayer is not so much to get what we want, but to glorify God in Heaven. Jesus lifted His eyes to Heaven and prayed, "Father, the hour has come.

Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You" (John 17:1). Throughout this magnificent prayer, the glory of God the Father and God the Son is exalted. "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17:5). We cannot pray sincerely if our aim is not to bring glory to Him.

God has given Jesus authority over all flesh, to give eternal life, "that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ

whom You have sent" (John 17:3). These verses alone demonstrate the Source of eternal life and God's everlasting authority over all people. Some wonder that if God has authority over all people, why is the world in such a mess? The answer is because God chose not to make us robots. He gave us hearts that could choose to love Him or reject Him.

Nothing brings pleasure to God more than when He hears His people pray for the salvation of others – in His name.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"R'T AWED XM W DVWT DCWD
EWRYVY TRHXRXY XM ZXHHWEY
WIZ EWRYVY WLWEVIVYY XM CRO
WIZ WRZY WHH XOVE DCV LXEHZ."
— HRIZW VOWIKVHRYDW

Previous Solution: "From my hair to my toes to my nails. Everything's fake. Everything! Even my heart is fake." — Adriana Lima
TODAY'S CLUE: d s1nbe v

‘Days of God’: A look at Iran’s mounting crises

BY JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran’s supreme leader says his nation is living through “days of God.”

The Islamic Republic has been reeling from one crisis to another, from the targeted killing by the United States of its top general to the Revolutionary Guard’s accidental shootdown of a passenger plane carrying scores of young people, most of them Iranians. U.S. sanctions have crippled its economy as tensions with America have soared.

In a rare Friday sermon in Tehran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei stuck to the play-book Iran has relied on since 1979, blaming the country’s woes on the U.S. and other Western powers, and proclaiming that Iranians still support the Islamic Revolution.

He pointed to the outpouring of grief after Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran’s top general, was killed in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians attended funeral services across the country for Soleimani, who was revered by many as a war hero. But the funeral itself was marred by tragedy when 56 people died in a stampede of mourners in Soleimani’s hometown of Kerman.

The moment of national unity was shattered days later, when Iranian forces accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner, killing all 176 people on board, and then concealed their responsibility until they were confronted with mounting evidence from Western leaders.

Here’s a look at the various crises Iran faces:

The moment of national unity was shattered days later, when Iranian forces accidentally shot down a Ukrainian jetliner, killing all 176 people on board

U.S. Sanctions

After unilaterally withdrawing from Iran’s 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers, President Donald Trump began ratcheting up sanctions. The sanctions have exacerbated an economic crisis, sending the local currency into a freefall and wiping away many people’s life savings.

The Institute of International Finance, a global association of financial institutions, estimates that Iran’s economy will contract this fiscal year by more than 7 percent, mostly because of the drop in crude oil exports due to sanctions. The report found that as a result, Iran’s reserves are expected to dip to \$73 billion by March, totaling nearly \$40 billion in losses over two years.

The loss of soleimani

As head of the Revolutionary Guard’s elite Quds Force, Soleimani was the architect of Iran’s regional military operations and its support for armed groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. He was blamed for the killing of hundreds of American soldiers by Iran-backed militias in the years after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. He also helped Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces battle rebels and Islamic extremists. In Iran, he was seen by many as a mythic figure who had defended the nation. Critics and supporters alike say he will be tough to replace.

The plane tragedy

In response to the killing of Soleimani, Iran launched a wave of ballistic missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq. No one was seriously wounded, though several soldiers were screened for concussions and sent to Germany for medical treatment. As Iran braced for a counterattack, the Revolutionary Guard shot down a passenger plane shortly after it took off from Tehran’s international airport last week, mistaking it for a U.S. cruise missile. Most of those killed were Iranians.

Iranian authorities concealed their role for three days, initially blaming a technical failure, until Western leaders said they had mounting evidence that a surface-to-air missile had brought the plane down. Iranian officials have apologized and promised to punish those responsible, but have faced widespread criticism and international demands to pay compensation to victims’ families.

Street protests

As the economic crisis has worsened, Iran has seen wave after wave of sporadic, leaderless protests. The protests are usually sparked by economic grievances but rapidly escalate into calls to overthrow the Islamic Republic. The demonstrations have often turned violent, and security forces have responded with force.

Amnesty International says more than 300 people were killed in protests in November over a hike in gasoline prices, when authorities shut down the internet for several days.

The Revolutionary Guard’s announcement on Saturday that it was responsible for shooting down the plane sparked days of protests in the streets and on university campuses. Security forces dispersed some of the crowds with tear gas and live ammunition.

The unraveling nuclear deal

Iran continued to comply with the nuclear deal despite U.S. sanctions until last summer, when it said it would no longer fully abide with the agreement if it received no economic benefits. Iran began openly breaching certain limits set by the deal, and after the killing of Soleimani said it was no longer bound by any of the agreement’s restrictions.

Britain, France and Germany, which also signed the deal along with China and Russia, have been trying to salvage it. They have searched for a mechanism that would allow them to keep trading with Iran but have been unable to find one that would protect their companies from U.S. sanctions.

Earlier this week, the European nations triggered a dispute mechanism in the nuclear deal in an attempt to bring Iran back into compliance. They say they are committed to saving the agreement, but the dispute process could potentially result in the snapback of international sanctions, further compounding Iran’s woes.

Ukrainian PM submits resignation after tapes

BY YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s prime minister submitted his resignation Friday, days after he was caught on tape saying President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — a former sitcom star with no previous political experience — knows nothing about the economy.

The scandal comes at a fraught moment for Zelenskyy, who has found himself in the middle of the impeachment case unfolding against President Donald Trump in Washington. Trump stands accused of withholding nearly \$400 million in military aid to Ukraine to pressure the country’s leader to investigate Trump political rival Joe Biden.

In a Facebook post, Prime Minister Oleksii Honcharuk praised Zelenskyy as “an example of transparency and decency to me” and added: “In order to dispel any doubts about our respect and trust for the president, I have written a resignation letter and submitted it to the president for introduction to parliament.”

The Rada, Ukraine’s parliament, must vote on whether to accept the resignation. Zelenskyy’s office said only that it would take the letter under consideration. But at least one political analyst, Volodymyr Fesenko, head of the Penta think tank, said the resignation is unlikely to be accepted: “Zelenskyy doesn’t want to dismiss Honcharuk.”

Earlier this week an audio recording surfaced in which Honcharuk appeared to make disparaging comments about Zelenskyy’s understanding of economics. He called Zelenskyy “a layman” in economics and said the president should be better educated about the

national currency.

Zelenskyy is a 41-year-old former comedian whose only political experience before his election last spring consisted of playing a Ukrainian president on TV. He starred in “Servant of the People” as a high school history teacher who is propelled to the presidency after his rant against government corruption goes viral.

Honcharuk said that the recording was a compilation of “fragments of recorded government meetings,” and he blamed unidentified “influential groups” for making it look as if he didn’t respect the president.

“It is not true,” the prime minister insisted.

On Thursday, lawmakers from the opposition party Opposition Platform-For Life demanded Honcharuk’s resignation, saying he and his cabinet had discredited Ukraine’s president and exacerbated the economic crisis in the country. Members of the ruling Servant of the People party said there were no grounds for Honcharuk to step down.

Iryna Herashchenko, a lawmaker in the Rada, said that the parliament had yet to receive any documents related to the resignation and that Honcharuk should have submitted his letter to the parliament and not to the president — otherwise it doesn’t bear any legal consequences and is merely “private political correspondence.”

“In Ukraine, the parliament appoints the Cabinet,” she said.

The scandal shows that different political forces have started a fight for the position of prime minister, according to Fesenko, the political analyst.

Locust outbreak, most serious in 25 years, hits East Africa

BY ELIAS MESERET
and CARA ANNA
Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — The most serious outbreak of locusts in 25 years is spreading across East Africa and posing an unprecedented threat to food security in some of the world’s most vulnerable countries, authorities say. Unusual climate conditions are partly to blame.

The locust swarms hang like shimmering dark clouds on the horizon in some places. Roughly the length of a finger, the insects fly

together by the millions and are devouring crops and forcing people in some areas to bodily wade through them. Near the Kenyan town of Isiolo on Thursday, one young camel herder swung a stick at them, with little effect. Others tried to shout them away.

An “extremely dangerous increase” in locust swarm activity has been reported in Kenya, the East African regional body reported this week. One swarm measured 37 miles long by 25 miles wide in the country’s northeast, the Intergovernmental

Authority on Development said in a statement.

“A typical desert locust swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer,” it said. “Swarms migrate with the wind and can cover 100 to 150 kilometers in a day. An average swarm can destroy as much food crops in a day as is sufficient to feed 2,500 people.”

The outbreak of desert locusts, considered the most dangerous locust species, also has affected parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea and

IGAD warns that parts of South Sudan and Uganda could be next.

The outbreak is making the region’s bad food security situation worse, the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization has warned. Hundreds of thousands of acres of crops have been destroyed.

Already millions of people cope with the constant risk of drought or flooding, as well as deadly unrest in Ethiopia, extremist attacks in Somalia and lingering fighting in South Sudan as it emerges from civil war.

Brazilian minister is fired after comments linked to Nazis

BY DIANE JEANTET
and MAURICIO SAVARESE
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil’s government has drawn criticism after its culture minister launched an arts initiative focused on nationalism and religion, while using language he later acknowledged was similar to that used by Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels.

Though cash-strapped, the government of President Jair Bolsonaro will spend \$4.9 million to foment the production of literature, theater, opera, music and other arts. It was announced by Bolsonaro, Education Minister Abraham Weintraub and culture secretary Roberto Alvim from a library of the official presidential residence in a live Facebook video.

Alvim, the driving force behind the initiative, is a born-again Christian who found renewed faith while recovering from cancer. He delivered a separate message about the initiative using a phrase that local paper O Globo and some other commentators identified as resembling language in a speech by Goebbels. Alvim, who has disavowed Nazism, acknowledged the similarity but said it was merely a “rhetorical coincidence.”

The speeches, whose words have been reviewed by the AP, both say the nation’s art “in the next decade will be heroic” and “will be

national.” Both men conclude: “Or it will be nothing.”

The president of Brazil’s lower house said on Twitter the video went beyond the pale, and that Bolsonaro should remove Alvim from his position immediately. Bolsonaro’s press office declined to comment, saying Alvim had already made a public statement.

While the amount to be spent is a drop in the bucket compared to other arts funding, the project jibes with the government’s other efforts to overturn what Bolsonaro calls “cultural Marxism” and some of his ministers say is undermining society’s morals. The leftist Workers’ Party governed Brazil for 13 years until 2016.

“When culture becomes sick, the people become sick, too,” Alvim said in the video beside Bolsonaro. “Brazilian culture was deliberately sickened during the recent decades. Culture is the basis of the homeland.”

More than 57 million people — 55 percent of the voters in 2018’s election — embraced Bolsonaro’s anti-leftist campaign, in which he promised to fight corruption, violence and leftist ideology with the same energy.

The government will stimulate film projects that focus on Brazil’s independence and historical figures, and be aligned with conservative values, Alvim said. Speaking in a separate recorded

message released Thursday, with a wooden cross atop his desk, Alvim said he wants 2020 to mark a historic cultural rebirth to “create a new and thriving Brazilian civilization.”

He sat beneath a framed picture of Bolsonaro, and orchestral strings played lightly in the background. The music is from an opera by Richard Wagner, sometimes associated with Nazism and German nationalism. Alvim said in a radio interview that he chose the music himself, because the work is transcendent and stemmed from Wagner’s Christian faith.

“It’s a Nazi-fascist aesthetic, but I ask myself whether there isn’t method in the midst of this chaos,” former culture minister Marcelo Calero said by phone, adding that cultural projects should strive to create jobs and income. “Culture in the view of this government isn’t about economic issues, it’s about attacking an enemy to make people think critically.”

The cultural campaign in Brazil goes well beyond the arts. From school textbooks to teen pregnancy, from the walls of private museums to those of public institutions, the 2020 ideological push is shaping up on several fronts. And after a series of high-profile resignations and dismissals in year one, Bolsonaro begins his second year in office with a new ministerial team to implement its lead-

er’s conservative agenda.

“I’m back, ready for battle,” Weintraub tweeted Jan. 5, calling his followers to support him in his fight against “oligarchs, corrupt individuals and the communist-socialist ideological wing.”

Bolsonaro has made education, especially in early childhood, one of his top priorities. On Jan. 7, he and Weintraub — his second education minister in a year — spoke live on Facebook and accused previous administrations of turning the ministry of 300,000 employees into a factory of “militants.” The two announced a complete “clean-up” of kids’ school textbooks.

Without presenting concrete examples, Bolsonaro had previously described textbooks as an “embarrassment” with too much writing in them, and said parents only want their sons to be boys and daughters to be girls.

“There are still some (textbooks) that we don’t like but a lot of filth has already come out,” Weintraub assured him.

Few specific proposals have been put forward as an alternative — an emphasis on family values, the national anthem (already included in textbooks by law), and a Brazilian flag on the cover.

For Claudia Costin, a former education secretary in Rio de Janeiro and senior director for education at the

World Bank, the culture wars are a waste of precious time. Brazil ranked in the bottom third of the 79 countries and economies that took part in the 2018 Program for International Student Assessment conducted by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. According to the test’s results, Brazilian students have stagnated in mathematics, reading and science. Public schools are performing particularly poorly.

“We have a lot of homework to do,” Costin said. “All this is a distraction from what really needs to be done.”

The government’s conservative agenda has also pushed into health matters.

Dameres Alves, the minister of women, family and human rights, recently shared news of an approach to fighting teen pregnancy that would focus on advocating sexual abstinence.

The campaign, expected to be unveiled in the coming days, will target youths, but also parents, educators, and health workers, said Angela Gandra, the secretary in charge of family affairs at Alves’ ministry. She stressed that the campaign is complementary to existing methods of contraception.

“We want to bring reflection to the parents and the children about what human relations are,” Gandra said at the ministry’s building in Brasilia. “Sexual relations

stockpile pesticides and conduct aerial spraying. In Ethiopia, officials said they have deployed four small planes to help fight the invasion.

But one approach backfired in Kenya in recent days when the agriculture minister asked people to post photos on social media of suspected locusts, or “nzige” in Swahili.

A mocking series of images of warthogs, cats, lizards and other beasts followed, with pleas for help in identifying them, and the appeal was ended.

